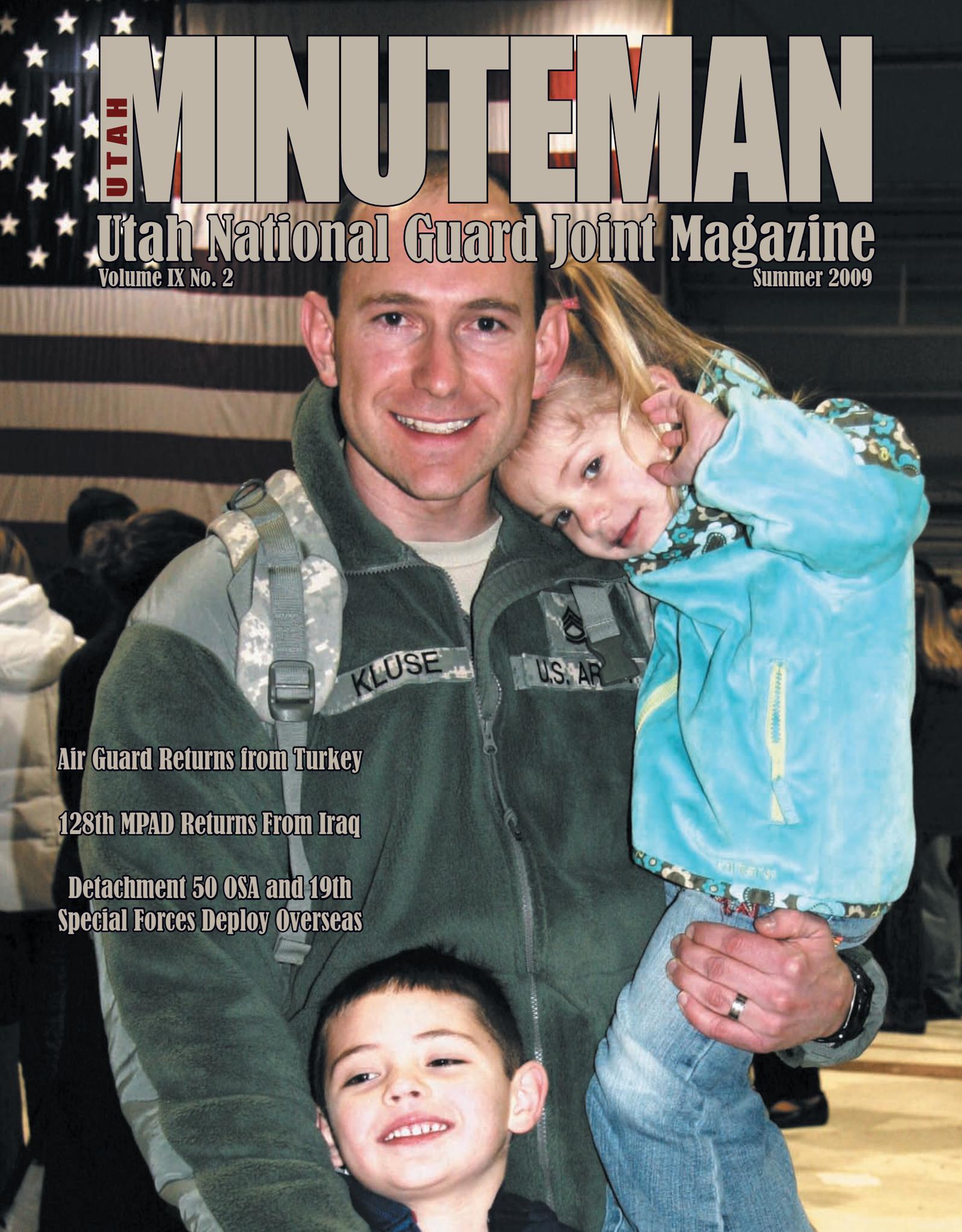


UTAH MINUTEMAN

Utah National Guard Joint Magazine

Volume IX No. 2

Summer 2009



Air Guard Returns from Turkey

128th MPAD Returns From Iraq

**Detachment 50 OSA and 19th
Special Forces Deploy Overseas**

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Soldiers, Airmen, Families and Employers

DRAPER, Utah — **T**his summer saw the departure of two great friends of the Utah National Guard, its Veterans and the State of Utah. Major George E. Wahlen, a Medal of Honor recipient for heroic actions at Iwo Jima, passed away June 5 at his home in Ogden. He worked tirelessly his entire life to improve Veterans' lives here in Utah when he could have easily ended his public service at the end of the war, heralded by President Truman at the White House. He was a quiet professional who led by his deeds rather than by words. He will be sorely missed.

The other is the 96th Regional Readiness Command. My good friend, Major General Peter Cooke, commander of the 96th, followed orders from Washington and graciously encased the unit colors on D-Day, June 6. The "Deadeyes" have worked closely with the Guard in support of our mission on many occasions. The 96th provided all life support to Guard Soldiers and Airmen during the 2002 Winter Games. The 96th and the Guard have, over time, exchanged some senior leaders in an effort to improve liaison and expand careers.



Photo by Greg Cullis

*The Adjutant General,
MG Brian L. Tarbet*

Both Major Wahlen and the 96th enjoyed tremendous support from families and employers, the most critical support our Soldiers and Airmen need for success. I'm proud to report that Guard Families continue to make the difference. Our Yellow Ribbon campaigns, Family Support activities and marriage-enrichment seminars are highly popular and well-

attended. I recently had the opportunity to participate in Freedom Salutes for our two most recently returning units, the 128th MPAD and KFOR. It is wonderful having them home.

But our work is not done. There are nearly 200 Soldiers and Airmen deployed around the world as of this writing. Three small units are scheduled to deploy in the next several months and we expect large-scale deployments to begin again in 2011. The continued support from families and employers of our Soldiers and Airmen is critical to the success of the Utah National Guard. 



Photo by SFC Stacey Berg

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet (left) and MG Peter Cooke, commander of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, during the 96th RRC deactivation ceremony June 6 at Fort Douglas.



Photo courtesy of West Jordan City

At the West Jordan Memorial Day ceremony, MG Brian Tarbet (left), MG Peter Cooke (center) and Chaplain (COL) Bryce Holbrook place roses on the memorial, paying tribute to fallen heroes and honoring three Utahns who died during the past year in service to our Nation.

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Utah Minuteman is a commercial-enterprise publication, produced in partnership, thrice yearly, by the Utah National Guard and AQP Publishing Inc. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, nor are they endorsed by the Departments of the Army and Air Force, nor the State of Utah. All photos are Utah National Guard photos unless otherwise credited.

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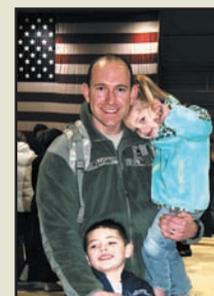
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Cover Photo: Utah National Guard Soldier SFC John Kluse returns from deployment with the 142nd MI.

Photo by Ileen Kennedy



Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Bruce Summers

DRAPER, Utah — I want to thank our Soldiers and Airmen for the great work and accomplishments during the last few months since the last printing of the Utah Minuteman. Major General Tarbet and I had the distinct opportunity to visit the 97th Troop Command, supported by Alpha Company (Sappers) 1457th and augmenters from the 65th Fires Brigade, JFHQ and Recruiting Command. They spent two weeks in the Old Russian Army training site of Qaraheybat in Azerbaijan. There they worked with elements of the Azerbaijan Army. This exercise was witnessed at the strategic level by many countries and with oversight of the State Department. This was the first joint-training event with an outside country since the Soviets left Azerbaijan in 1992. The U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan and the commanding general of USAEUR were very complimentary of our Soldiers and the outstanding job in diplomacy in a very interesting environment. Thank you for a job well done.

We also visited the 151st Air Refueling Wing in Turkey during their deployment. It was a great experience to watch our great Airmen accomplish their refueling missions and to get a better understanding of what it takes to get the tankers ready for their missions. To the maintenance crews, supply, crew chiefs and pilots, thanks for your professionalism and dedication in making sure the mission is completed and returning our Airmen home to their families and loved ones.

We also visited Soldiers from elements of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade in Germany doing a great job in supporting the Global War on Terror. They are making a real impact for the units on the ground. In March, along with Soldiers from the 115th MEB, they also made a large impact in the Key Response exercise held in Korea.

I would also like to congratulate SPC Guy Mellor, 1st Battalion 145th Field Artillery, and SSG Dennis Boorman, 640th RTI. They won the State Soldier and NCO of the year competitions held at Camp Williams in March. They also won the Region 7 competition held in Las Vegas, Nev., April 30 - May 2. They will now compete in the national competition at the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Ga. in August. We are extremely proud of them and their accomplishments and wish them well at the next level of competition. I also want to congratulate 1SG Jason Turville of the 489th BSB for being selected as the First Sergeant of the year in the State.

As we start enjoying this summer's season, keep in mind the hazards and keep yourself, your family and friends safe. There are numerous activities that can cause serious injury and even death. Enjoy yourself, but always remain vigilant about the risks in your activities. Have a fun and safe summer. Thank you for all you do for this great State and Nation. 🇺🇸



Photo by Greg Cullis

Bruce D. Summers
Command Sergeant Major, Utah Army National Guard



ABOVE: BG Jeff Burton (left) and CSM Bruce Summers (second from left) with 300th Military Intelligence Soldiers during the Key Response exercise held in Korea. BELOW: In Azerbaijan, Utah National Guard Soldiers train Azerbaijani Soldiers in April 2009.



Photos courtesy of CSM Bruce Summers

Welcome Home

128th MPAD

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **F**ourteen Soldiers from the Utah National Guard's 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment returned to Utah March 5 following a 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers of the 128th deployed in March 2008 to Iraq via Fort Dix, N.J., where they provided public affairs support to Coalition forces and the 4th Infantry Division in Baghdad.

"The mission was interesting; we were in Baghdad at a very unique time," said MAJ Lorraine Januzelli, commander of the 128th. "We saw violence drop 90 percent, and we saw civil capacity increase just as much. We also saw a sea of change in Iraq and democracy taking root. It was an amazing time to be there."

After completing a successful mission to Iraq, one could feel the air of excitement with these Soldiers as they returned home.

"I've always wanted to go over there and I haven't had the opportunity. It was everything I expected and more," said SGT Whitney Houston. "The Iraqi security forces are becoming more efficient. I got to see most of Baghdad's battle spaces and even north of Baghdad. I would embed a lot

PHOTOS TOP DOWN: Children of returning Soldiers anxiously await their arrival. BG Jeff Burton (left) and MG Brian Tarbet (right) welcome home SSG Kelly Collett, with his wife and children at Salt Lake International Airport.





with different units. I got to see a lot of different fields of expertise in the military in action and I feel like I got a broad perspective on what is going on over there.”

The mission of the 128th was documented by the professionalism of their work. Soldiers recorded, photographed, videotaped and wrote the story of Soldiers serving in Iraq.

“There are three things that define my Soldiers,” explained Januzelli. “They are very creative, very sensitive and very kind. They took those three skills and really told the Soldier story well, maybe better than ever before.”

A large crowd of family, friends, fellow Guard members and media assembled at the Salt Lake International Airport to greet the arriving Soldiers.

“The public is here to say thanks; the families are, of course, relieved to have them home,” said MG Brian Tarbet.

ABOVE: SGT Whitney Houston and his wife take a moment to speak with a Channel 5 reporter. BELOW: SSG Nichole Bonham (left) and PFC Lyndsey Dransfield (right) embrace family after a year-long deployment.

During the deployment, Soldiers were able to come home on leave for some very exciting family events. In September, SPC Douglas York returned in time to sign adoption papers for his little girl.

“They love each other and were connected,” said York’s wife Kristin. “They were meant to be together as father and daughter.”

In October, Houston made it home just in time for the birth of his new son.

“I came home and I was able to be there for the delivery and birth. I was there for about a week,” he said. “He’s more than doubled in size since I’ve been away.”

Now that the Soldiers of the 128th have completed their mission in Iraq, they can begin recording this new chapter in their own lives and use their creative skills to tell it well. 🇺🇸

ABOVE: 1LT Shawn Clark’s two daughters don’t want to let go of their Soldier-dad. BELOW: SGT Scott Wolfe is greeted by his wife and daughter.



Utah Guard's 197th Special Troops Company Conducts First Jump



By LTC Hank McIntire Photos by SGT Samantha Xanthos

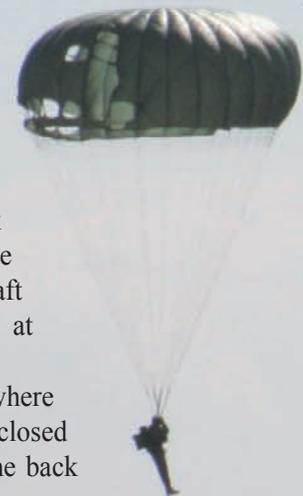
CEDAR FORT, Utah — **A**ltitude: 1,500 feet. Wind: None. Landing surface: A freshly plowed field. Number of Soldiers: Thirty. Level of enthusiasm: Off the chart.

The conditions were indeed perfect at Drop Zone Ashau April 18 for members of the Utah National Guard's 197th Special Troops Company, based in Ogden. This was to be the first airborne operation carried out completely by unit members, without any help from the 19th Special Forces Group, the other—and much larger—airborne game in town.

Adding to the novelty of the operation was that a handful of 197th Soldiers were to complete their “cherry” jump, meaning their first parachute jump since completing the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

Part of the day's excitement for these first-timers was they would be jumping from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter instead of the usual C-130, the aircraft they trained on while at Fort Benning.

Unlike a C-130, where Soldiers fly in an enclosed aircraft and dash out the back of the plane, Soldiers assume a



ABOVE: Three “Sky Sharks” from the 197th contemplate their upcoming cherry jump from a Blackhawk helicopter. LEFT: Soldiers from Stick 2 lift off the ground in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter en route to Drop Zone Ashau. BACKGROUND: Drop Zone Ashau near Cedar Fort, Utah.



seated position and dangle their legs out of the Blackhawk's open doorway, waiting for a not-so-gentle tap on the helmet from the jumpmaster as he yells, "Go!" and they vault out into the blue.

"I'm excited," said PVI Myles Kevern, a Cottonwood High School graduate from Salt Lake City, while waiting his turn to board the helicopter. "When I left airborne school I was like, 'I wish I could jump from a Blackhawk.'"

"I'm psyched," added Kevern, who enlisted a year ago and finished airborne training in January. "This is a good unit."

Only one jump removed from her "cherry" experience, PFC Janelle Zenger, of Farmington, described what would likely be going through Kevern's and his fellow initiates' minds as they approach the moment of truth.

"As soon as you sit down, there's only one way out of the bird," she recalled. "That's what you have to think about the whole time."

Also preparing to jump was MAJ Andrew Archuleta, of West Point, Utah, commander of the 160 Soldiers of the 197th. The unit was created in December 2008 with the mission to provide front-lines logistics and other support to units in combat theaters of operations worldwide. The unit has a few Soldiers currently deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

"We built up the anticipation in our Soldiers that this is an airborne unit," said Archuleta. "We've talked about jumping, and now they're experiencing it."

Joining Archuleta on the first "stick," or group of Soldiers who jump from an individual aircraft, was LTC Douglas Briles, commander of Special Troops Battalion, 528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne), based at Fort Bragg, N.C. The 197th is war-traced to the STB, meaning that Briles' unit exercises oversight, provides the mission and synchronizes

the training of the 197th in preparation for combat.

"These guys are truly a combat multiplier," said Briles. "The unit was created on Dec. 16, and in January they sent 6 guys to Afghanistan. They are enablers to the Active [Army] to round out their shortfalls or enable them to take a knee."

The single Blackhawk helicopter from the Utah Guard's 2-211th Aviation, flew a total of five sorties for the operation, carrying six Soldiers and one media representative each time.

After each stick hit the drop zone and each Soldier collected him- or herself and their chute, they walked back to the base area at a speed that reflected the hardness—or softness—of their individual landing.

"I loved it; it was awesome!" said Kevern, just beginning to roll out the adjectives—some more than once—to describe his jump. "It's so much different than jumping out of a C-130, you can actually see it coming. It was a rush! It was awesome! Everything I thought it would be. It was sweet!"

"The jump was a lot smoother than last time," said Zenger of her second jump from a Blackhawk. "A nice, soft landing, but a little rough with the rocks and the hard ground."

Also qualifying for "cherry" status was Fox 13 cameraman Pete Deluca.

"I'm still shaking; I'm afraid of heights," he said as he came off the helicopter after filming the first stick. "This is the best thing I've ever done! I'm gonna put it on my blog."

Families and friends were also on hand for this historic day, taking photos and home video, but most important, to be there for their Soldier.

"This is really exciting," said Daneka Ewert, wife of SFC William Ewert, of Pinedale, Wyo. "It's a special day with the new unit, and it's an honor to be a part of it."

Daneka explained that her husband is a former Ranger

LEFT TO RIGHT: Members of 197th Special Troops Company prepare for their first unit parachute jump April 18.



and has not done a parachute jump in several years.

“I wasn’t concerned; I was excited for him,” she said. “We have small children and they were beside themselves with anticipation.”

Private Kevern’s mother Kimberly was also there with other family members in tow to see her son’s first jump.

“He did great, and he didn’t get hurt!” she said. “I didn’t even feel nervous.”

“I’m very proud,” she added, when asked for her thoughts about her son’s service. “He is very motivated and determined to support his country, and I want to support my son. I’m all about family, so I’m here supporting him.”

Circulating among his troops, shaking hands and ribbing the newbies wearing their cherry-red “Sky Shark” covers on their helmets, was Archuleta, thankful for the successful premiere of his stand-alone jump operation and visibly proud of his Soldiers.

“It went very, very well—as good as it could go,” he said. “It was a perfect day for jumping: no injuries and everyone

was accounted for safely. That’s the first priority. It couldn’t have gone any better.”

Archuleta sees a bright future for his Soldiers, whose specialties include maintenance, medical, shower and laundry, mortuary affairs, communications, administrative, construction, ammunition and chaplain services.

“Our capabilities are really what make us unique from the rest of the National Guard,” he said. “We’re the only company of its kind.”

“We are not only unique for Special Operations, but we can use these capabilities to support our state mission,” he explained. “All these can be utilized during a state emergency.”

Family members also recognize how the 197th protects Utahns by serving abroad and at home.

“It’s critical for us to have the freedoms we have today,” observed Daneka Ewert. “This is what it’s all about. I support him in whatever decisions he makes militarywise. It’s a very honorable profession.”

And because of the versatility of the 197th, Archuleta knows what that can mean for him and his Soldiers.

“In the event that we have to jump in[to a combat situation], we can do that,” he said. “We’re prepared.” 

LEFT: 197th Soldier’s chute deploys after jumping from a UH-60 Blackhawk. Soldier from Stick 5 prepares to exit the helicopter over Drop Zone Ashau. Cherry and seasoned Soldiers from Stick 2 board the helicopter. BELOW: The leadership team of 197th Special Troops Company were all smiles after their first unit parachute jump April 18.



Utah Guard Marathon Team Takes Second at Lincoln

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

LINCOLN, Neb. — **T**he five members of the Utah National Guard's marathon team, LTC George Graff, of Santa Clara; MAJ Eric Petersen, of Holladay; CPT DeAnne Trauba, of Sandy; MSG Ray Workman and SGT Chris Odekirk, both of Salt Lake City; all competed in the Lincoln-National Guard Marathon held here May 3.

Guard members from 42 states and one U.S. territory vied for individual and team honors at Lincoln, the annual qualifying race for the All-Guard team.

Based on the results, the top 40 men, 15 women and the two highest finishers in the masters division, age 50 and older, will represent the National Guard at five to eight marathons and other races throughout the nation in 2009. Selectees will alternate events that they attend.

"Members rank the list of events we are attending based on which ones they can and want to attend," said SFC Michael A. Hagen, National Guard Bureau Marathon Program coordinator.

Along with competing at the races, members of the All-Guard Marathon Team will also staff race expo booths designed to help raise interest in the National Guard and marathon running, said Hagen.

Utah team members took their turn at the Lincoln Marathon expo booth at the Embassy Suites hotel the day before the race, meeting with visitors, answering their questions about the National Guard and hoping to interest potential recruits in the fitness aspect of military service.

"We are as much about spreading the gospel of the National Guard as we are about running these races," said Petersen, an attorney with the Utah Attorney General's office. "Our job is to get quality recruiting leads at these expos."

Also part of the pre-race festivities was Jeff Galloway, who ran the 10,000 meters in Munich as a member of the 1972 U.S. Olympic Team. Considered by many to be one of the preeminent experts on running today, Galloway presented seminars to runners on marathon race strategies and how to incorporate scheduled walking breaks into training runs and races.



MSG Ray Workman competes in his last Lincoln Marathon as a National Guard Soldier.

Going into the Sunday race, expectations were high among the Utah Guard runners that the mix of veteran and rookie runners would help the team do well. Odekirk, who returned earlier this year from deployment with the 2-211th Aviation, beat out 1,200 other runners for a win in the Camp Buehring, Kuwait, version of the 2008 Army Ten-Miler.

"Eric Petersen recognized me from my picture on the Utah National Guard Web site [after winning the Kuwait race] and called me and said, 'What are you doing on May 3?'" said Odekirk, a full-time imaging editor for Amirsys, a medical publication company. He agreed to run as a member of the Utah team at Lincoln in his first marathon ever.

The other four Utahns are Lincoln veterans. Workman, a full-time purchasing and contracting specialist with the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office in Draper, is not only the dean of the state team with 11 trips to Lincoln and a personal record of 2:30:10 for the 26.2 miles, he was also the most seasoned runner of the entire National Guard contingent.

"You get some ribbing for being older," said Workman, "but you also get some respect. It's a matter of sticking to it and not giving up."

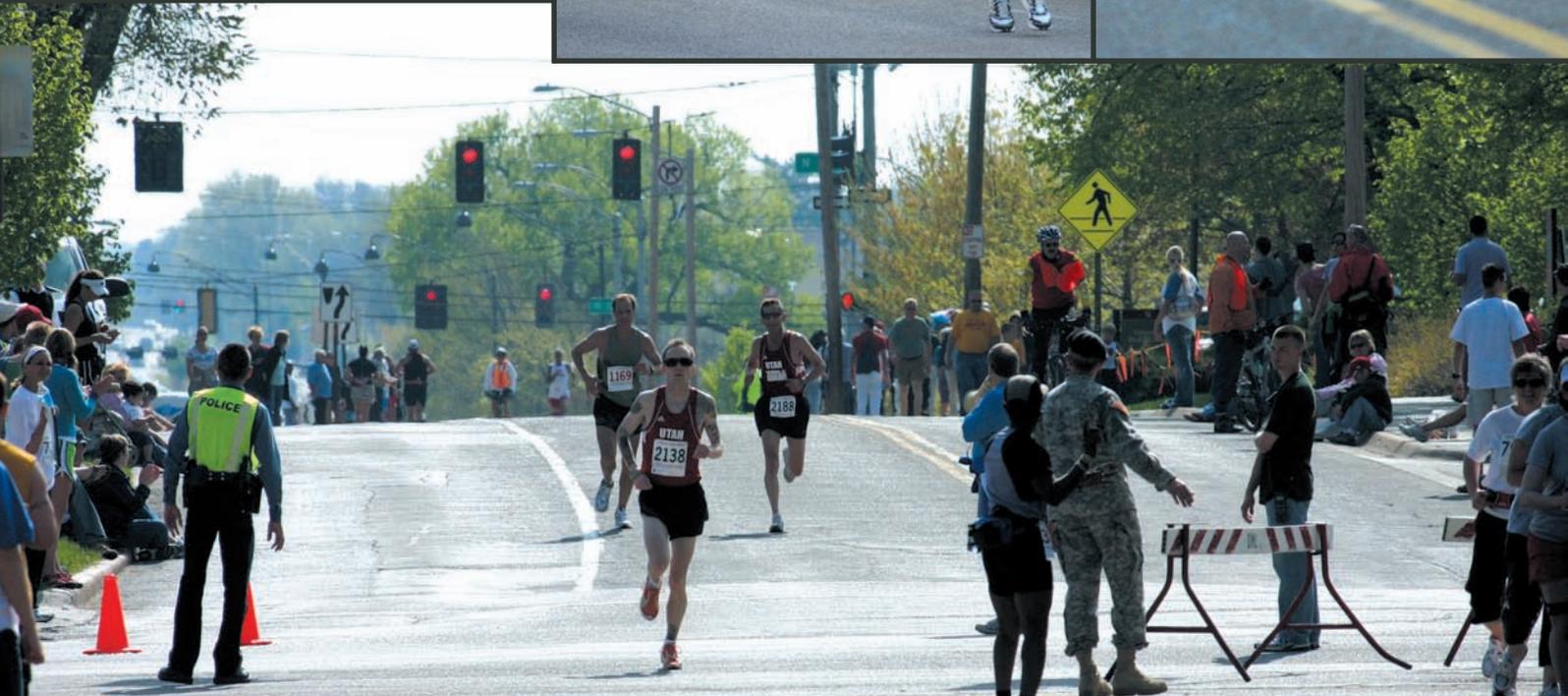
Including this year's race, Trauba, full-time Secretary to the Utah Guard's General Staff, has competed ten times in Lincoln; Graff, the JFHQ comptroller and a CPA in his civilian job, has nine races under his belt; and Petersen, JAG officer with the 1-211th Aviation, is right behind him with eight.

Calling Odekirk a "good, young runner," and Workman "the veteran of veterans," Graff said that the team is "a great mix. We have a lot of fun together."

The conditions on race morning were nearly perfect: cool temperatures, a slight breeze and some cloud cover.

"The only bad news is that there's no excuse for a bad performance today," joked Petersen.

The Utah runners elbowed their way to the front of the



scrum at the starting line just a few yards east of the University of Nebraska's historic Memorial Stadium, home of the five-time national football champion Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Before the echo from the starting gun had faded completely, the red tank-topped Utah team members were across the line and on their way. It took nearly 15 minutes for the 6,000-plus runners to enter the course, which starts and finishes on the University of Nebraska campus, passes the skyscraper-like State Capitol, Holmes Park, Sunken Gardens and children's zoo.

Reaching the midpoint of the race in the same order they eventually finished, Odekirk, Workman, Petersen, Graff and Trauba each looked strong and focused as they passed the cheering crowd with one race official shouting, "Go Utah Guard!" into a bullhorn.

Approaching the finish line one right behind the other, Odekirk and Workman crossed with times of 2:57:36 and 2:57:46, finishing 13th and 14th, respectively, among Guard runners. Petersen finished 19th at 3:04:42, Graff brought home 30th place in 3:11:02, and Trauba finished second for all Guard women in 3:24:10.

In her post-race comments, Trauba described her finish and overall performance.

"I was spent, but it was a better time than I've had in a long time," she said. "I went a little bit too fast going out, but I felt good."

"What got me the most was the heat at about mile 22 on," said Odekirk. "I slowed down a little toward the end, but I felt a lot more comfortable than I thought I would."

"I need more training behind me," he admitted. "I only trained about 3½ weeks [for this race]."

At the National Guard awards ceremony, each Utah runner was recognized individually for their top finishes in rookie, masters, women's, and overall. National Guard Marathon officials, joined by Jeff Galloway in his official 1972 U.S. Olympic Team sport jacket, handed out the awards.

Based on the combined scores of the first three finishers from each state, Oregon took top team honors, finishing only 10 minutes ahead of Utah, who came in second overall. Each Utah team member got what they came for: a spot on the 2009 All-Guard Team.

When asked how their membership on the state marathon team has enhanced their fitness and their military careers, each Utah Guard member highlighted a different benefit.

Petersen: "We stay at a very high level of fitness. From a readiness standpoint, if we're ever called up to be deployed they don't have to worry about our doing the job physically."

"Running is the most fundamental activity that a human being can do to measure how fit they are," he said. "You can't cheat on a 2-mile run."

Odekirk: "[Running gives me] time to go out and clear my head. There's nothing more therapeutic than going out on the road, listening to my feet smack the pavement, taking in the scenery and thinking things through."

"Runners tend to be very sharp, very good students," he continued. "Running gives you the self-discipline you need to be a good Soldier."

Graff: "I enjoy the running and the conditioning. I started running to stay in shape for the APFT. And making the All-Guard team is a big part of my motivation."

Trauba: "The marathon gives me a goal, and it's fun and exciting to go out and meet other people and try to get others involved in fitness and nutrition."

"I get less sleep, training at 4:30 a.m., trying to balance being a mom and a Soldier," she added. "I like that there's a program in the Guard that benefits me in what I'm good at. Running gives you the best bang for your buck."

And Workman, reflecting on his last Lincoln: "Marathoning has enhanced my Guard career," he said, with retirement looming in early 2010. "I don't have that give-up attitude."

"I've met a lot of people I never would have met if it hadn't been for the marathoning program," he added. "The friendships are what I'll take with me."

And what would Workman tell young runners just coming into the program?

"Don't give up," he said. "When you have things stacked against you, just keep trying. You can find a balance in taking care of running and your career."

"These guys are building a good team going forward," Workman added. "That's what it's all about: bringing new guys in and making the program strong, representing the state and the Guard." 🇺🇸

PHOTOS OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP RIGHT CLOCKWISE: CPT DeAnne Trauba, number 2172; MAJ Eric Petersen, number 2145; BOTTOM: SGT Chris Odekirk, number 2138; MSG Ray Workman, number 2188; CENTER: LTC George Graff, number 2074. CENTER PHOTO LEFT TO RIGHT: LTC George Graff, MSG Ray Workman, MAJ Eric Petersen, SGT Chris Odekirk and CPT DeAnne Trauba with their Lincoln Marathon awards.

85th CST Trains at USANA and Rio Tinto Stadiums

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Metro Fire Agency, including the Salt Lake Metro HazMat first responders and Salt Lake Metro Fire Agency Incident Management Team, Utah National Guard 85th Civil Support Team (CST), Hawaii National Guard 93rd CST, and Guam National Guard 94th CST participated in a multiple-venue, multi-day training event March 3-5, 2009.

The exercise consisted of a 32-hour continuous training event with active chemical and biological working targets. The operation evaluated a multi-CST, multi-discipline, multi-agency response focusing on interoperability, relief in place and joint operations.

“We need to understand, operationally, how we fit in and how we can best support the incident commander in incidents like this where we’re not the sole piece,” said 1SG Vince Pierce, 85th CST. “We are evaluated by people who understand the CST and have a narrow scope of the operational picture who in real-world events we would be operating with.”

Agencies participating in the exercise were able to facilitate a working relationship between the CSTs, first responders and other government agencies such as public health and the FBI, which have a jurisdictional responsibility to respond.

“We rub shoulders with our counterparts within the fire, police, ambulance and FBI—all the relevant agencies that we would meet in an incident,—so we are not meeting for the first time when everything goes south,” said Pierce.

The operation began at the USANA Amphitheater but spread to other venues in Midvale City, West Valley City and Sandy City to include Rio Tinto Stadium and Valley Emergency Communications Center.

“It challenges our resources so when we come into a real-world situation we are able to adjust,” said 2LT Spencer Marsh, 85th CST. “In a stadium we need to think differently about stairs, manpower, exertion and how we can utilize each person to the maximum ability. We only have an hour in each bottle so if they are climbing stairs they are going to breathe faster so that hour goes down to 45 minutes to a half an hour. We need to plan all this into the operation.”

The 85th CST recently introduced some new equipment to assist team members in covering large areas such as Rio Tinto Stadium or USANA amphitheater. After consulting with the manufacturer who incorporated some hardware modifications, the Segway personal transports are now part of the CST



package.

“The purpose of this purchase was to provide us with a redundant backup transport. We initially got the idea because the airport bomb squad used Segways,” said Pierce. “We thought it worked out really well for them. It helped do some of our initial perimeter monitoring extremely quickly.”

“We saw the utility of having these as a backup vehicle to our Gator,” he continued. “It is great for a strike package. We will be able to maneuver these through doorways; we can carry monitoring equipment, and they can be used for body recovery.”

The 32-hour operation was divided into four, 8-hour operational periods. Participants were tested on interoperability, relief in place, as well as split-team operations.

“We can operate alone for 72 hours and then we will need assistance,” said Pierce.

For this exercise, Hawaii’s 93rd CST and Guam’s 94th CST were on site to offer relief-in-place assistance for Utah’s 85th CST. The weather became a factor during this operation because of extreme winds, which brought in a snowstorm through the night and freezing temperatures during the second day.

“The Hawaii guys didn’t like the snow,” said Warren James, Midvale City Fire Department.

“[The weather] is a part of it; that is reality,” said Gill Rodriguez, fire chief for Murray City Fire Department and incident commander for the last operational period of the





PHOTOS: Members of Utah's 85th CST train with first responders from Salt Lake, West Valley, Sandy, and Murray, as well as CSTs from Hawaii and Guam at USANA and Rio Tinto venues March 3-5.

exercise. We don't know when these things are going to happen. You have altitude; you have weather, and you've got different teams coming in at different times."

"They experienced a little bit of altitude sickness and things you don't expect that you need to be on the lookout for [such as] driving in the snow," added Rodriguez.

The 85th CST consists of 22 highly skilled, full-time members of the Army and Air National Guard who are federally resourced, trained and evaluated. They bring an experienced skill level, leading-edge technical capabilities and resources to expand the needs of first responders and provide rapid assessment and advice to the incident commander.

The 85th CST supports civil authorities when there is a suspected chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives (CBRNE) incident. They identify, for the incident command any CBRNE agents/substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with appropriate requests for additional resources.

"The main thing that the Guard brings to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) event that the first responders

don't have is the analytical laboratory support and the unified command trailer," said James. "We don't have the ability to tie the COMMS together the way that SFC Joe Parker and the UCS can. That is so beyond our capability, also the analytical laboratory with the support of Dr. Dayle. We don't have Ph.D.'s in the fire department who can come out and help us assess things the way they do."

The 85th CST's high-end detection equipment is available to detect a greater range of substances, including toxic industrial materials, organic substances, chemical and biological warfare agents and radiological materials. The 85th is available for rapid deployment for WMD response operations and is a high-priority response unit supporting civil authorities in responding to a WMD situation.

"The CST trains specifically with chemical and biological weapons, and we [first responders] deal with toxic and industrial chemicals. It's a totally different set of challenges; they bring a lot of experience," said James. "It's a force-multiplier to bring a 22-person team in to augment our 23 hazmat techs. We double our ability with the civil support." 🇺🇸





Photo by PFC Ashley Baum

Region 7 Soldier and NCO of the Year

By SSG Scott Faddis

LAS VEGAS — Utah National Guardsmen swept the Region 7 Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition for the second year in a row.

Specialist Guy Mellor, 145th Field Artillery, and SSgt Dennis Boorman, 640th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), won the Region 7 Soldier and NCO of the year awards.

The Region 7 competition featured the Soldier and NCO finalists from Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. Competitors square off in a grueling test of fitness, knowledge and military skills. They start with a general-knowledge test to measure their military proficiency. The first morning starts early with a Physical Training test, which Mellor and Boorman both won in their division. Next the competitors were tested on their ability to react to different situations and use the correct Warrior Task to solve the situation. Following was a bus ride to Mount Charleston, near Las Vegas for the land-navigation exam conducted on 8,000-foot high terrain closely matched to the mountains of Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Boorman painfully discovered the one significant difference between Mount Charleston and Afghanistan.

“I ran into a large and sharp Yucca (cactus) plant,” said Boorman when he finished the course and received medical attention for the cacti stings.

Once night fell, competitors were sent out again to find another five points. The course was very challenging and many returned without finding all of their points.

The following day, the competition started with a 5-mile ruck march with each competitor carrying about 25 pounds of gear. After the march, competitors were tested with a weapons qualifications, followed by a review board before a group of command sergeants major.

2009 Soldier and NCO of the Year Competitors

Soldier of the Year:

SPC Guy Mellor-
145th Field Artillery
SGT Misti Radcliff-
141st Military Intelligence
SPC Phat Tan Doan-
1457th Engineers
PFC Andrea Goold-
115th Maintenance
SGT Kristin Youd-
144th Area Support Medical
Command (Representing Aviation)

NCO of the Year:

SSG Jason Mellor-
145th Field Artillery
SSG Dennis Boorman-
640th Regiment (RTI)
SGT Joshua Galer-
197th Special Troops Company
SGT Derek Hutchings-
1-211th Aviation
SSG Aaron Sherman-
142nd MI BN Linguist

1SG of the Year

1SG Jason Turville-
489th Brigade Support Battalion
1SG Cameron Smith-
145th Field Artillery

The regional competition is the third level of competition for these two Soldiers. The competition started in December when they competed against other Soldiers in their major command to advance to a state wide competition. At the state event held March 26-28, the level of competition was equal to what competitors found at the Region competition.

“I felt that the Utah competition really prepared me for Region,” said Mellor. “It helped that my brother (SSG Jason Mellor) did the Utah competition so he could help mentor me along this process.”

SSG Jason Mellor came in second in the Utah competition. 



Photo by PFC Ashley Baum

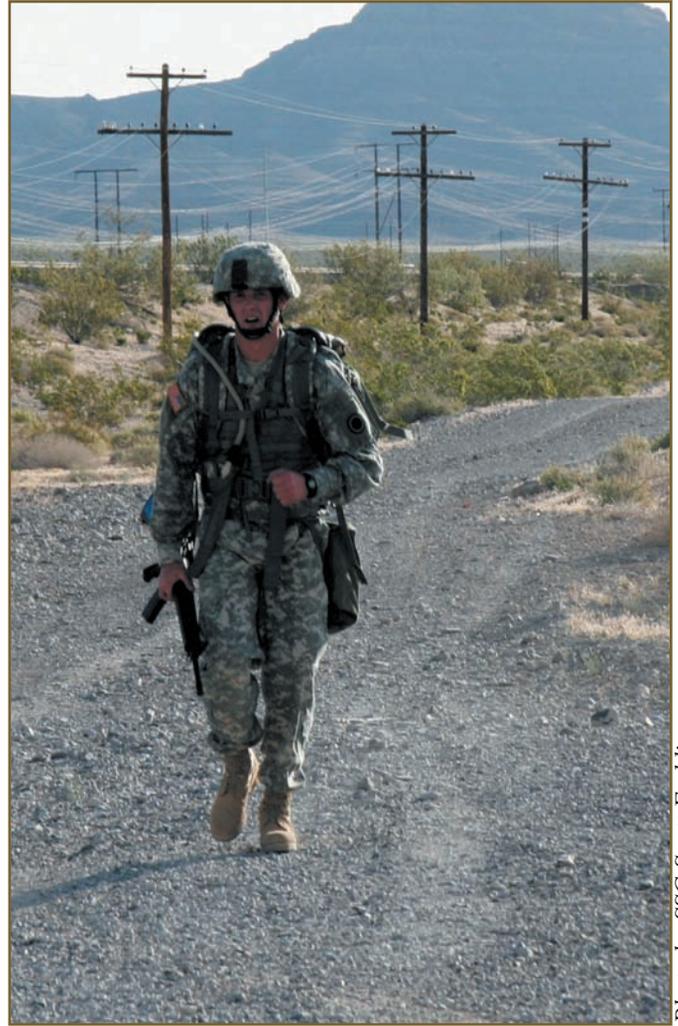


Photo by SSG Scott Faddis



Photo by PFC Ashley Baum



Photo by SSG Scott Faddis

OPPOSITE PAGE: SSG Dennis Boorman recovers with a quick breather after using the M291 decon kit.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SGT Kristin Youd consults her map as she navigates to her next point. SPC Guy Mellor runs the last

mile of the 5-mile ruck march at the Region Competition. SSG Dennis Boorman prepares to search a detained prisoner he has just disarmed. SGT Joshua Galer plots his points before heading out on the land-navigation course.

Azerbaijan Hosts Utah Soldiers for Annual Training

By PFC Rebecca Hansen

AZERBAIJAN — Azerbaijani and U.S. Soldiers patrol a dirt road with their weapons at the low ready, focusing their eyes on anything suspicious. With his fist in the air, the squad leader signals ‘Halt.’ This hand gesture helps bridge the language barrier between the two forces. Soon, the multinational squad receives enemy fire and begins a coordinated reaction.

Action and reaction were common throughout this and other training scenarios during Regional Response 2009 at Qaraheybat, Azerbaijan, April 18-26.

This company-level, field-training exercise consisted of situational-training exercises where integrated platoons trained in four areas: cordon and search, establishing and operating a checkpoint, operating as a Quick Reaction Force, and conducting a patrol. Despite their differences, these Utah Army National Guard and Azerbaijani Soldiers learned how to work together and adapted to the language barriers between them.

“It’s been really difficult communicating, but we were able to work with the interpreters and some of the Azerbaijani Soldiers who spoke English,” said 1457th Engineer Battalion’s PFC Andrew S. Carroll, a combat engineer. “It’s also important because when we deploy we will have the same difficulties.”

“There are a lot of them who do speak English,” said the cordon-and-search lane’s observer/controller SFC Kevin Boughton. “But even without language, it seems like they are watching us and trying to do the exact same thing with their patrol. It looks like they are learning from it.”

In total, about 170 Utah National Guard



Soldiers from 97th Troop Command, 1457th Engineer Battalion and 65th Fires Brigade participated alongside more than 300 Soldiers from the Azerbaijani Infantry and Peacekeeping Force Companies. The Utah Guard’s participation in the exercise drew special praise from Utah National Guard Adjutant General MG Brian L. Tarbet, who expressed his appreciation to Utah troops for adapting in a new environment and laying the groundwork in a new relationship with Azerbaijan.

Tarbet called the troops his “A-team,” saying, “I think quite simply you are the best fighting force in the world.”

Command Sergeant Major Bruce Summers also thanked the Soldiers for their service, which would be discussed at “the highest levels,” telling them they were writing their own history here in Azerbaijan. The “highest levels” include the U.S. State Department and U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan.

“Regional Response is part of that ongoing cooperation with Azerbaijan and the sovereign, independent nations of the regions through our NATO partnership efforts,” said U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan, Anne E. Derse.

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense invited dignitaries from China, Iran, Turkey, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan to observe the exercise. Many of these countries sent representatives to either opening-ceremony day or during





distinguished-visitor day.

Opening of the exercise, U.S. Army Europe's 7th Army commanding general, GEN Carter Ham, spoke at a pass-in-review ceremony along with chief of Main Operation and Combat Readiness, First Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Eyvaz Jafarov.

Considering the strategic importance of Azerbaijan, Ham expressed his hope that this exercise would be the first of many such bilateral relations to come, noting the importance of interoperability. Ham also emphasized the need for continued cohesion as U.S. and Azerbaijani forces continue fighting side by side in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Regional Response 2009 planners organized the exercise framework, using Azerbaijan's Individual Partnership Action Plan, as defined by NATO, and carried it out in the spirit of a partnership for peace, Jafarov said.

"Hosting of such exercises by Azerbaijan is significant and important for us," Jafarov said. "To conduct such exercises is a great opportunity to establish more productive cooperation and close friendship."

Since this is the first time Azerbaijan, U.S. Army Europe, and the Utah National Guard have worked together, Utah National Guard Regional Response 2009 CSM

RaeLynn Oman, the senior enlisted Soldier from Utah, said her primary focus has been as easy as C-S-M.

"Although I have never heard [the CSM] acronym used in this way before, I tried to impress upon the [Azerbaijanis] what a command sergeant major does," Oman said. "'C' for competition versus cohesion, 'S' for safety, and 'M' for morale."

Morale echoed when the 1457th yelled in cadence "Iron Sapper!" during the closing ceremony of Regional Response 2009.

"We have made progress; we have made history," said Regional Response 2009 co-director COL Edward B. Gunderson. "We have promoted great understanding and cooperation between our forces. We've demonstrated our interoperability in peacekeeping military skills. This is an effort I hope we can continue to strengthen." 🇺🇸

PHOTOS: Regional Response 2009 is part of a continuing effort by the United States and its partners to improve interoperability and strengthen relationships with partner militaries in theater-security operations and assist Azerbaijan with achieving its NATO interoperable objectives, as defined in its NATO individual-partnership action plan.

Photos by PFC Ashley Baum, PFC Rebecca Hansen and CSM RaeLynn Oman



Happy 50th Birthday, Old Friend

By TSgt Justin Frasche

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he date Nov. 12, 2008 was probably considered just another day to many. However, this particular date was a special one to the men and women of the 151st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. On this day, aircraft 57-1499 turned 50 years old.

Aircraft 57-1499 rolled out of the Boeing plant in Renton, Wash. on Oct. 17, 1958. Its first flight was Nov. 12, 1958 and was delivered and flown to the 913th Air Reserve Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, Strategic Air Command, on Nov. 26, 1958.

A total of 820 aircraft were manufactured with 732 of these being KC-135A models. In fact, as testament to the original design, the Air Force took delivery of KC-135s from April 30, 1957, to Jan. 6, 1966, without a major change in configuration, and only a few engineering-change proposals. Currently, there are only 411 “R” model tankers left, with 254 belonging to the active duty Air Force, and 157 belonging to various Reserve and Guard components.

Aircraft 1499, dubbed “Super Bee”, is devotedly maintained by Staff Sgt. Robert McFadden and Tech. Sgt. Justin Frasche who work hard to sustain the aircraft’s flying status. The Super Bee has had a long, distinguished career to date. It has been assigned to many of the great SAC bases, including Barksdale, Kadena, Eielson, McConnell, Mather, Castle, Plattsburgh, Loring, Fairchild, Mildenhall and Grand Forks Air Force Bases, and of course, its current location with the 151st Air Refueling Wing.

This aircraft will forever be remembered in infamy for a mission that took place on May 6, 1987. During a local flying sortie out of Castle AFB, the nose landing gear would not extend on approach and 1499 had to make a crash landing at Edwards AFB with only the main landing gears. The aircraft was repaired and has since been modified to the KC-135R configuration.

The Super Bee has served in many operations throughout its history. Some highlights include Cold War alerts in SAC; Vietnam War air operations such as Arc Light, Commando Hunt and Linebacker I and II; Urgent Fury in Grenada; Just Cause in Panama; El Dorado Canyon in Libya; Earnest Will in the Persian Gulf; Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Southwest Asia; Allied Force (Kosovo) in the Balkans; Northern Watch and Southern Watch in Southwest Asia; Noble Eagle air defense of the United States; Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Operation Iraqi Freedom



Photo by MSgt Burke Baker

ABOVE: TSgt Justin Frasche is the lead crew chief of the “Super Bee,” a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 R model refueling aircraft that recently turned 50 years old. LEFT: On May 6, 1987, 57-

1499 was forced to land at Edwards AFB, when the nose gear could not be extended. The aircraft was repaired and has since been modified to KC-135R configuration and is projected to fly well past its 75th birthday.

in the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the Global War on Terrorism worldwide.

Even though 1499 is now 50 years old, it still performs its mission as well as it did when it rolled out of the factory in 1958. In fact, upgrades such as the new CFM-56 engines and a Collins avionics suite including global positional system, enhanced instrument navigation system, weather radar and a glass cockpit make it more capable than ever. With all of the current modifications, the KC-135’s life is extended to the year 2040 or about 40,000 total flight hours. Currently, the flight hours on 1499 are around 18,500, which is well below the average of 21,000 fleetwide.

There are no shortages of impressive statistics and facts that document the outstanding performance of the KC-135. It can carry 200,000 pounds of fuel and can fly for 20 hours without refueling. Six thousand pounds of fuel a minute can be off-loaded. To put this in perspective, an average car can run on the same amount of fuel a KC-135 dispenses in just one minute, for a year. It is difficult to believe the U.S. military operates 50-year-old aircraft, but they do—every day, 24/7. The KC-135 is the U.S. Air Force’s primary in-flight refueling tanker, and also happens to be one of its most valuable tools. No one flies anywhere without gas, and the KC-135 has 30,000 gallons of what everybody needs.

Aircraft 57-1499: Viet Nam hero, Cold War relic and modern-day warrior, 50 years young and its crews still standing watch in defense of our country. Happy birthday, old friend, and we wish you many, many more! 🇺🇸

Utah Air Guardsmen Return Home from Turkey

By Lt Col Lisa Olsen

SALT LAKE CITY — More than 100 Airmen from the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing returned home to Utah May 3 after being deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Airmen were deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where they provided critical air-refueling operations to U.S. cargo/personnel aircraft in support of the operation.

The Wing initially deployed more than 150 members during the last week of February, later swapping personnel out on a standard rotation schedule. The unit deployed more than 260 personnel and four KC-135 air-refueling tanker aircraft during the 60-day period. Airmen redeployed over a three-day period.

The 151st ARW deployed as part of its normal Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation. The AEF concept, first implemented in the 1990s, was designed to help build predictability and stability into the way the Air Force schedules its people to respond to contingencies. The AEF rotations take full advantage of the contributions made by the Total Force Initiative, seamlessly integrating the active-duty, Guard and Reserve components into cohesive, deployable force packages. Air National Guard personnel maintain full-time employment in the civilian sector, and standard AEF rotations schedule units well over a year in advance. This allows employers ample notice of when their Citizen Airmen will be deployed. 🇺🇸

Utah Air Guard Daughter Receives ANG Youth of the Year Award

By A1C Lillian Chatwin

SALT LAKE CITY — Alyssa C. Brown, daughter of MSgt Mike Brown, a vehicle maintenance member of the 109th Air Control Squadron, won the 2009 Air National Guard Youth of the Year Award in an announcement ceremony at the 109th ACS recently.

The ANG Youth of the Year Award promotes leadership in youth and annually recognizes teen ANG family members who achieve high academic marks and make significant contributions to their communities.

As the nationwide finalist, Alyssa, a sophomore at the Academy of Math, Engineering and Science in Salt Lake City, Utah, has maintained a 4.0 grade point average, and has served in leadership roles both at school and in her community through her involvement in student-government work, as a class officer in her church youth group and with the Girl Scouts.

As part of the award, Alyssa will receive the Shelton Challenge Scholarship, which is a six-day residential experience at North Carolina State University that involves students in leadership activities that expand on those skills.

"This is a great opportunity, and I'm so grateful for it," said Alyssa after being surprised with the announcement of her award.

"Alyssa has a drive and a will to succeed higher than I've ever seen," said her father Mike Brown.

Wanting to become a pediatric pulmonologist, she is already involved with a "future doctor" program. Alyssa said she is also considering which college she would like to attend.

"I want to work with kids. My goal in life is to find a cure for asthma," said Alyssa.

Alyssa said that she and her younger sister both have asthma, and her sister still suffers severe asthma attacks.

"This award is going to open a lot of doors for Alyssa," said her mother Teresa Brown.

Alyssa is scheduled to receive the official ANG Youth of the Year Award in ceremony in June. 🇺🇸



Alyssa Brown, daughter of MSgt Mike Brown, 109th Air Control Squadron, and Teresa Brown, was presented the Air National Guard Youth of the Year Award May 2. Alyssa received the award for her outstanding academic record and all-around scholastic involvement.

Biathletes

From the Utah Guard Compete at CNGB Championship

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

JERICHO, Vt. — Bringing together a team of seasoned athletes and new-to-the-sport competitors was the order of the week for the Utah National Guard at the Chief of National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships held March 2-7.

Six athletes with .22-caliber rifles, alternating cross-country skiing and firing at a series of 100-yard targets, three races and temperatures ranging from single digits to nearly 50 degrees, all combined to give these Utah Guardsmen one thing at the Vermont National Guard's Ethan Allen Firing Range: Experience.

Coming off a gold-medal team finish at the Regional Championships in Minnesota in January, the goal and the expectation of second-year coach CPT Jason Elphick was that his Soldiers had a real shot at finding themselves in the center section of the medals stand on awards day.

"Going into Nationals, I'm really optimistic that we'll make a strong showing with the combination of our experience and new talent," he said.

With the CNGB Championships as their first competition as a team, each athlete brought a unique skill set to the mix:



The Utah National Guard biathlon team and coach at the Ethan Allen Firing Range during the CNGB Championships.

- MSG Doug Bernard, Bravo Company, 1-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), of Park City, senior team member with 14 years as a biathlete, four years on the All-Guard team

- SFC Shawn Blanke, also of the 19th Special Forces, a Highland resident, three-year team member and team captain

- SSG Ben Dahl, Retention Noncommissioned Officer at the University of Utah, of Lehi, with nine years in the Guard and four on the team

- SPC Brandon Adams, Alpha Company, Recruit Sustainment Program, of Heber City, heading to Basic Training in April and then directly to Officer Candidate School

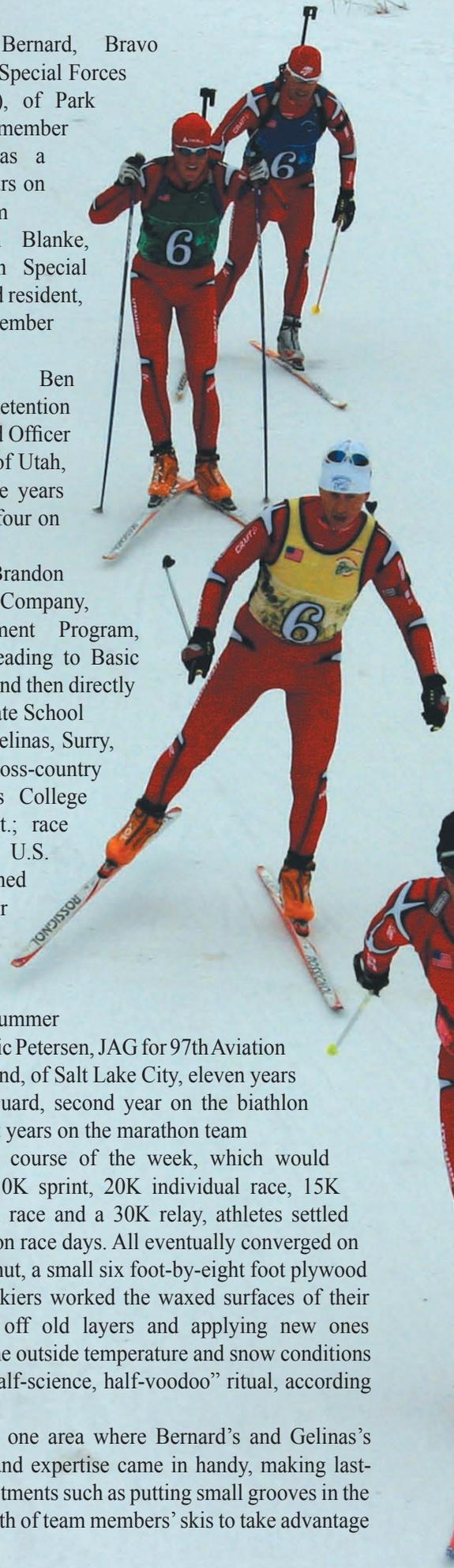
- SPC Drew Gelinis, Surry, Maine; skied cross-country for St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vt.; race technician for U.S. Nordic Combined Team; headed for the 19th Special

Forces after Basic Training this summer

- MAJ Eric Petersen, JAG for 97th Aviation Troop Command, of Salt Lake City, eleven years in the Utah Guard, second year on the biathlon team and eight years on the marathon team

Over the course of the week, which would consist of a 10K sprint, 20K individual race, 15K military patrol race and a 30K relay, athletes settled into a routine on race days. All eventually converged on the team wax hut, a small six foot-by-eight foot plywood shack where skiers worked the waxed surfaces of their skis, sanding off old layers and applying new ones according to the outside temperature and snow conditions in a sort of "half-science, half-voodoo" ritual, according to Blanke.

This was one area where Bernard's and Gelinis's experience and expertise came in handy, making last-minute adjustments such as putting small grooves in the wax the length of team members' skis to take advantage



of the hard and icy sections of the course.

“That’s where waxing comes in,” said Blanke. “It can save you 50-60 percent in effort going up a single hill.”

Once on the course, the Utah biathletes did their final warm-ups, stripped down to their matching red racing suits, and made their way to the starting gate with teams from Vermont, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Nevada and Oregon.

While an experienced Nordic cross-country competitor, drawing bib number 1 in his very first biathlon race was ironic for Gelinás, who just a month ago traveled thousands of miles from his home in Maine to be sworn in as a member of the Utah National Guard at Draper headquarters by the adjutant general himself, MG Brian Tarbet.

“Even though I live 2,400 miles across the country, it just seemed like the right fit for me in terms of personality and professionals that I want to surround myself with and build my military career around,” said Gelinás, citing Blanke’s four-year association with him through their common interest in biathlon as the catalyst in helping him make the decision to join the Guard.

Adams, another Utah Guard newcomer, will leave his civilian job as a biathlon instructor at Soldier Hollow in Midway, Utah, to head to Basic Training in April. Adams admits that it took “a few encouraging words” from his father, CW2 Lynn

Adams, a longtime member of the biathlon team, to persuade him to enlist

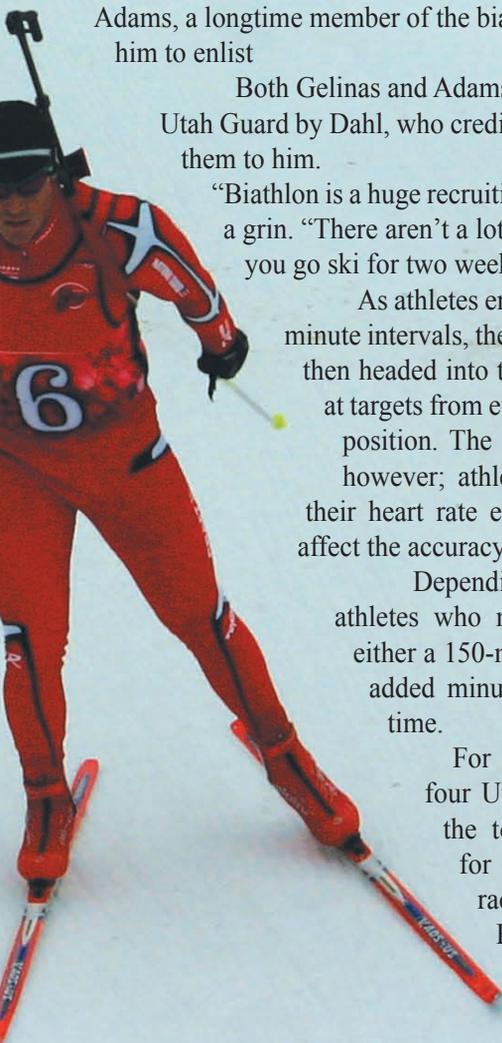
Both Gelinás and Adams were recruited into the Utah Guard by Dahl, who credits Blanke with referring them to him.

“Biathlon is a huge recruiting tool,” said Dahl with a grin. “There aren’t a lot of jobs out there where you go ski for two weeks and get paid for it.”

As athletes entered the course at two-minute intervals, they skied a lap or two and then headed into the firing range to shoot at targets from either a standing or prone position. The goal wasn’t just speed, however; athletes had to slow down their heart rate enough so that it didn’t affect the accuracy of their shooting.

Depending on the type of race, athletes who missed targets incurred either a 150-meter penalty loop or an added minute to their overall race time.

For Monday’s 10K sprint, four Utah Soldiers finished in the top 20, and the results for the individual 20K race on Wednesday saw Bernard finish ninth, with Gelinás, Blanke and Adams landing



CENTER: Utah Biathlon Team members work their way up a long hill near the end of the 15K Military Patrol race March 6. TOP DOWN: SFC Shawn Blanke prepares his skis for the 20K individual race March 4 in the team’s “spacious” wax hut. SSG Ben Dahl eyes his targets from the prone position during the 20K individual race March 4. The 15K Military Patrol team races towards the finish March 6.

in the 13, 15, and 18 spots, respectively.

Following an off day, teams reconvened on Friday for the 15K military patrol race. For this event, teams start and finish together, and the patrol leader leads the other three team members and supervises the lone round of prone shooting.

Elphick assigned Bernard, Blanke, Adams and Gelinias to compete for Utah, and Dahl and Petersen skied on a composite team with Montana.

Patrol leader Bernard led the Utah team and supervised the shooting, while Petersen captained—or in this case, majored—the composite team. The Utah team had virtually the same ski time as powerhouses Minnesota and Vermont, but their marksmanship was not as accurate as the competition, dropping them to fourth place in the event.

“Minnesota brought their ‘A’ game today,” Elphick told the team after the race. “You were all in sync with each other; you looked like a machine.”

“It doesn’t matter how fast you are,” observed Gelinias as he summed up the day’s race. “You really need to perfect the art of marksmanship. You need to put it all together, and that’s not easy when your heart is beating 180 times a minute.”

Following the disappointing finish in the military patrol, the Utah team was confident they could gain enough ground in the final race, the 30K relay, to make the podium. But overnight temperatures in the 40s left a slushy course that no amount of snow-making technology could fix Saturday morning.



SPC Drew Gelinias, left, and SPC Brandon Adams approach the firing range during the Military Patrol race at Jericho, Vt.

Race officials decided to cancel the relay due to the conditions, eliminating any possibility that Utah would come away with a team medal.

At the awards ceremony Minnesota claimed the gold, followed by Vermont and South Dakota. Utah finished fourth overall with two bright spots for the team: a fifth All-Guard selection for Bernard, and Adams just missed the same honor. 

Last KC-135E Retires to Hill Aerospace Museum

By Lt Col Lisa Olsen

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he last remaining KC-135 “E” model assigned to the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, flew to its final home May 21.

Aircraft tail number 57-1510 was flown from the Salt Lake Air National Guard base to Hill Air Force Base in Ogden where it was accepted into the Hill Aerospace Museum for public display.

Aircraft tail number 57-1510 came to Utah Aug. 21, 1978 when it was assigned to the 151st ARW and has been with the Utah Air National Guard ever since.

“This is an airframe that has a thirty-year history in Utah,” said Scott Wirz, director of the Hill Aerospace Museum. “I think it is only fitting that it come here for exhibit.”

The flight of the E-model to Hill AFB concluded more than three years of planning and coordination between the Hill Aerospace Museum, the Utah Air National Guard, and the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

“This will be our first tanker on display at the museum,” said Wirz. “The KC-135 has filled a vital mission and one

that is oftentimes overlooked. We take a lot of pride in the Air Force, and the Air National Guard plays a huge role in the total-force partnership. I think this exhibit will reflect nicely that pride and partnership.”

The 151st ARW has been flying the KC-135 Stratotanker since 1978, but the aircraft has undergone several engine modification programs during its tenure. The E-model engine-modifications started in the early 80s and 157 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve tankers were eventually re-engined with the Pratt and Whitney TF-33-PW-102 turbofan. The modification was a major improvement over the previous A-model engine.

“Senator Jake Garn was the principal legislator to propose the idea of using surplus Boeing 707 engines and putting them on the KC-135. The Air National Guard sent one of the first two re-engined aircraft here to Utah,” said Col. Kelvin Findlay, 151st ARW commander. A command pilot, Findlay has over 6,000 hours in the KC-135, with over 5,000 hours in the E model.

Colonel Ron Blunck, commander of the 151st Maintenance Group, served as both an enlisted crew chief and later a navigator aboard the KC-135.

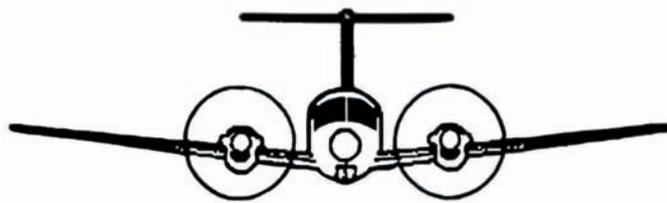
“The E-model modification was a far-sighted and cost-effective decision by the ANG,” he said. “The E model’s performance was a vast leap forward from the A model, and was a workhorse for the ANG and Air Force Reserve for over 20 years. We could carry heavier fuel loads and could stop on very short runways with the reverse thrust.”

“The E model was a very capable aircraft and would still be viable today, but the engines are no longer supported,” he said.

In addition to being able to offload more fuel, the E model was 14 percent more fuel efficient than the KC-135A, allowing greater range for the tanker fleet.

The 151st ARW converted to the newest version of the KC-135, designated the R model, in late 2005. The unit then began the process of transferring the outdated E models to other ANG units still flying that model, or to the aircraft “bone yard” facility at Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, Ariz.

“We are sad to see the E model go, but the newer R model engines bring us into the 21st century with today’s global noise restrictions and fuel efficiency concerns,” said Findlay. 



Utah Army Guard’s Det 50 Begins New Round of Deployments

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **I**n early March, the remaining deployed unit of the Utah Army National Guard, the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, returned home. It was the first time since 9/11 that the Utah Army Guard did not have an entire unit deployed overseas.

The respite was brief, however, as the six Soldiers of Detachment 50, Operational Support Airlift, departed Utah en route to Afghanistan just a week later.

Det 50, as the unit is known, is based near Salt Lake International Airport and will deploy to Afghanistan as part of Task Force ODIN in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their mission will be to provide intelligence-gathering support in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

The five warrant-officer pilots and one enlisted Soldier left Utah March 13 bound for the Combat Readiness Center at Fort Benning, Ga., where they will spend several weeks of training before heading to Hagerstown, Md., for additional training and then on to Afghanistan.

The unit last deployed in 2004, where they served in the Kuwait region for six months. 

PHOTOS TOP DOWN: BG Jeff Burton and CSM Bruce Summers visit with the family of a departing Soldier. COL Scott Robinson and LTC Pete Adams chat with CW2 Will Gummingsall. SSG Mathew Adams speaks to a Channel 2 reporter at the Salt Lake International Airport.



Recruiting and Retention Hits Record Enlistments

By MAJ Matthew Badell

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Recruiting and Retention Command has had some unique issues to deal with so far this year. National end strength for Fiscal Year 2010 will remain at 358,200. We are in unfamiliar territory with these restrictions on our end strength, but as you will see, Utah continues to lead the way.

During the first two quarters of 2009, Utah set new recruiting records, adding nearly 600 new members to our ranks. Most noteworthy was that every Recruiting and Retention NCO on the force was on mission and many exceeded their goals, such as SFC Bret Jackson, who currently has 30 enlistments for the year; MSG Matt Rhinehart, whose Recruiting Team 4 has completed their mission five months early; and most recently, SSG Bric Simpson and SFC Joe Spier were recognized as heroes of the month for their individual recruiting contributions.

Additionally, since Oct. 1, 2008, our Recruit Sustainment Program for new enlistees has continued to be the best in the nation. Sergeants First Class Sanchez, Portwood, Dixon and Smethurst do an excellent job preparing new enlistees prior to shipping to Basic Training. These leaders of our new recruits rely on volunteers to help mentor these new Warriors. If you would like to help in their efforts, please contact SGM Brett Johnson at (801) 432-4417.

On the new-initiative side of the house, we have developed a program called “The Road to Ranger,” which is a cooperative endeavor with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Venturing-age youth (16- to 18-year-olds). The Utah Army National Guard and Venturing BSA help build young men and women into honorable, intelligent and productive citizens. Both organizations share and nourish several common values. This provides an ideal environment for a new relationship between the two that can benefit thousands



Photos by SFC Ray Sanchez

ABOVE: “Headed Home” Members of Bravo Company Recruit Sustainment Program located in Ogden are being instructed on how to march with an individual weapon. The company is returning to garrison for final formation after a training exercise. The key to the warriors success is for the cadre to never miss a training opportunity.

BELOW: “Out of the gate” New recruits or “Warriors” from Bravo Company of the Recruit Sustainment Program start the running portion of their physical fitness test. The physical fitness test is done every month before the warriors ship to training.



Family Assistance Centers (FAC)

By Katrina Rhinehart

DRAPER, Utah — **What is a family assistance center?**

Family Assistance Centers (FACs) are designed to assist the families of military Servicemembers during peacetime and during training or mobilization. A FAC is open to all branches of the military (National Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve Components).

A Family Assistance Center provides “one-stop shopping” and resources to help family members cope with any issue they encounter as a military dependent.

What services are provided by a FAC?

Basic services provided by a FAC can be expected to include the following, regardless of location:

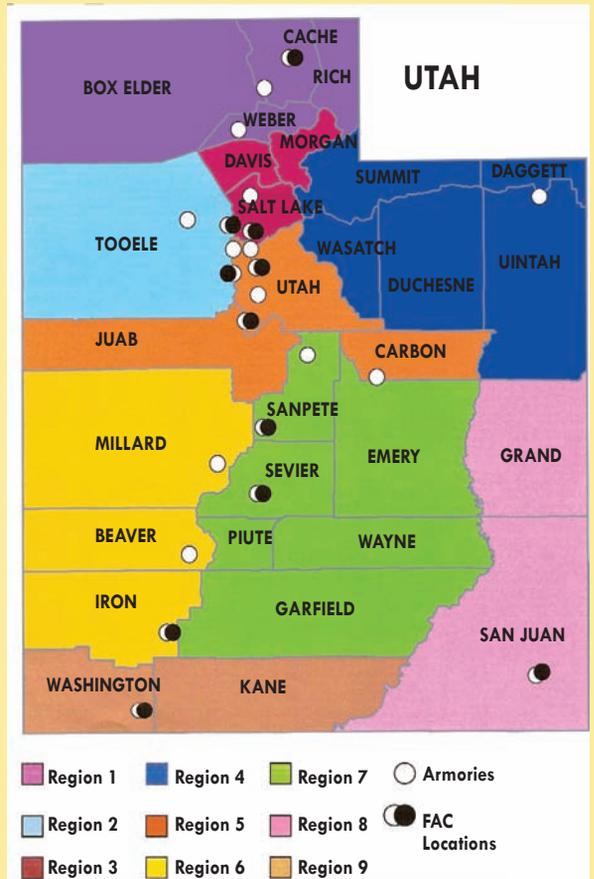
- TRICARE/TRICARE Dental assistance
- Financial Assistance/ Counseling
- Point of contact for legal and pay issues
- Point of contact for community support
- Emergency-assistance coordination
- Counseling Support/Referral
- Family/Household Emergencies
- Family Care Plan Information
- POC for Casualty Assistance
- Information, Referral, Follow-Up and Outreach
- DEERS (Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System) information
- Site for family communication
- ID Cards referral
- Support FRG programs

Please do not hesitate to contact one of our Family Assistance Centers for any questions or issues you may have. We are here to serve you!

For more information visit our Web site at www.ut.ngb.army.mil.

Utah FAC Locations

- Logan (435) 753-3155 Region 1
- West Jordan (801) 816-3406 Region 3
- Draper (801) 432-4902 Region 4
- Riverton (801) 878-5037 Region 2
- Orem (801) 722-6913 Region 4
- Spanish Fork (801) 794-6011 Region 5
- Richfield (435) 835-5241 Region 7
- Manti (435) 896-4326 Region 7
- Cedar City (435) 867-6513 Region 6
- Blanding (435) 678-2008 Region 8
- St. George (435) 986-6705 Region 9



of young participants and millions everywhere through their efforts. To learn more about the program please visit www.utahguard.org or <http://bsa.utahguard.org>.

Finally, we are in need of Soldiers willing to be trained in the 18-series Military Occupational Specialties to fill the ranks of the 19th Special Forces Group. The training is difficult, but the rewards are great. This typically includes an obligation of 18 to 36 months of active-duty training to complete. If you think you have what it takes and would like to learn more about this unique opportunity, call SGM Watkins at (801) 739-3674 to be put in contact with a recruiter in your area.

Please remember that when talking to potential applicants, register them at www.guardrecruitingassistant.com, so that you can earn some extra money for your efforts. 🇺🇸



“Three to five seconds!” PFC Grantland Butler, Bravo Company, Recruit Sustainment Program, is being instructed with his battle buddy (not shown) on movement techniques. PFC Butler is doing 3- to 5-second rushes with a combat roll, while his battle buddy is providing cover.

101st IWF Takes a Trip to Meet Their No. 1 Customer



The 101st Information Warfare Flight Utah Air National Guard, pose for a group photo in front of the 601st Air and Space Operations Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The 101st IWF traveled to Tyndall for their annual training to hear mission briefings and tour the AOC.

By Maj Krista DeAngelis

Photo by SSgt Emily Monson

TYNDALL AFB, Fla. — **A**n air of excitement could be felt as 26 members of the 101st Information Warfare Flight loaded onto a C-130 en route to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for their annual training and tour of 1st Air Force Headquarters.

Even with a bumpy four-hour ride to Panama City, Airmen were looking forward to escaping the Utah winter for a few days, enjoying the white sandy beaches of the Gulf Coast and meeting their No. 1 customer, 1st Air Force.

“Several of the folks on our team have never been down here,” said Lt Col Kevin Nuccitelli, 101st IWF commander. “Our primary customer is the 601st Air and Space Operations Center, so we wanted them to get a feel for whom they are actually providing their products. We do a split-based operation, so most of the work is done in Salt Lake, but the products we produce are given to our Information Operation Integration officers at Tyndall.”

On the first day of the visit, the group was given a series of briefings and a tour of the Air and Space Operations Center (AOC). Division representatives from combat operations, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, strategy, plans and air mobility explained not only their individual jobs, but how information operations (IO) helps them accomplish their overall mission.

“It was really good for us to see what our IO products are actually used for,” explained Nuccitelli. “Our IO officers here do the daily interface with the 601st and are the ones who receive the actual requirements. They then send it back to Salt Lake where we will do a mission analysis, develop the products and send it back to them. Our products help support a variety of events, including exercises, real-world events and support to civil authorities like hurricanes, fires, etc.”

In addition to AOC activities, the 101st took the temporary duty as an opportunity to conduct a “superdrill” and complete a handful of annual ancillary training requirements,

including ethics, fire and safety, antiterrorism and professional relationships. The 101st also had time to participate in a couple of team activities, like the annual fitness test and a Cajun boil.

“Besides the technical training that we’ve had and getting people familiar with the 601st down here, just getting together as a team is important,” Nuccitelli emphasized. “This just brings everyone together and allows us to get to know each other on a little different level than just sitting in the office every day. It’s been very successful in that aspect.”

The 101st’s superintendent echoed the commander’s thoughts and also explained an additional bonus of the trip.

“There were a lot of good things that came out of our coming down here,” added SMSgt Bill Hauser. “There were some doors knocked down that were previously closed to us for a long time, so meeting with people and talking things out really helped. We’re pretty excited. Our mission is going to expand just because of what happened here during this trip.” 

Military Intelligence Language Conference

By SSG Scotten Whaley

DRAPER, Utah — Someone once said it takes a million mistakes to learn a new language, so you may as well start getting them out of the way.

Visitors, participants and attendees to the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist) annual language conference came together to discuss ways to perhaps reduce that number. Every March the Utah National Guard hosts the world of language and intelligence. Companies come to display their latest advances in translation technology; teachers attend to discuss new techniques of language instruction; linguists arrive to learn new tips in language acquisition; and schoolhouses come to relate their most recent success stories.

The 300th welcomed conference attendees from more than 20 private companies and government agencies to the Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper, Utah. Brigade commander COL Val Peterson gave a presentation regarding his unit's impact in fulfilling its mission to provide both linguistic and intelligence support to the Army. He discussed the recent successful deployment of the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion to Afghanistan. This covered the various languages of the 300th and the future linguistic transformation of the Brigade that is currently in development. With that transformation could come many more slots in Global War on Terrorism languages like Pashto, Dari and Arabic.

Throughout the weekend there were three keynote speeches. The first was by MG Gregory Schumacher, assistant deputy chief of staff, G-2, on "Army and Army Intelligence – Agile Transformation in a New Context." Second, COL Sue Ann Sandusky, commandant, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLIC) and Presidio of Monterey, spoke on "Developing Linguists in a Time of Constant Conflict: DLIFLC's Role." The final keynote speaker was Mr. Roberto "BJ" Sanchez, from the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, whose topic was "Defense Intelligence Foreign Language – Constant Change and Challenges."

As the War on Terrorism enters its ninth year, the need for quality linguists only heightens. It is conferences like the 300th MI Language Conference that are helping the Nation's linguist force share knowledge and information that will not only increase their number but the level at which they operate, and with a little ingenuity help knock out a few of the million mistakes. 🇺🇸



Photos by Ileen Kennedy

During the 300th MI Language Conference, representatives from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Fort Gordon, Ga., were on hand to talk about the language opportunities available at their respective installations. Companies like Transparent Language, CACI, SCOLA, and Rosetta Stone demonstrated their cutting-edge technology that is changing how languages are learned and internalized in the military.



Scouting for Food

By PFC Rebecca Hansen

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah Food Bank has their usual trucks that come and go bringing in donated food. A different kind of truck came to drop off food March 28. This truck was painted in green camouflage and belonged to the Utah National Guard.

More than 80 Utah Guard Airmen and Soldiers from all over the State volunteered to help the Boy Scouts, community volunteers and the Utah Food Bank with this year's Scouting for Food drive.

It took long hours and a lot of resources to carry out this project, resulting in the Utah Food Bank's obtaining much-needed food to give out to Utah's poor and hungry. This is the 22nd consecutive year the Utah National Guard has supported this event.

"Everyone there had a such a great attitude all day and was really positive about the whole thing," said Joint Force Headquarters personnel analyst SSG Aaron Slaughter. For the project he tracked all the incoming food by getting the overall weight of the bins and ensuring the weight was also tied to the district it came from.

The Utah Guard also used its own resources to help out. The Spanish Fork, Springville and Ogden armories were local drop locations where Soldiers would load their trucks with the food and deliver it to food bank warehouses. The Utah Guard provided 16 trucks and six forklifts for support.



Photos by PFC Rebecca Hansen and Ileen Kennedy

"We look forward to the Utah National Guard's involvement each year. Many of the volunteers have assisted with the food drive for many years and the inventory process becomes smoother with each Scouting for Food drive," said Utah Food Bank's public relations specialist Jessica Pugh.

This year the Scouting for Food drive's goal was to have 600,000 pounds of food donated, which was about the same amount as last year. This year ended with a collection of 594,973 pounds of donated food.

"We were extremely pleased, given the state of the economy and the fact that we had a statewide food drive one month prior. Utah always responds generously when asked to donate," said Pugh.

Slaughter felt that the time and effort to collect close to 600,000 pounds of food in a single day was worthwhile.

"I do feel the project was a success because of all the volunteer support and food provided. Anytime



you can get that many people together to help people in need, along with the enormous volume of food donated, would have to be called a success in my opinion,” Slaughter said.

“Utah Food Bank Services is grateful for every person who contributed to the Scouting for Food drive. Each bag of food means someone will have dinner, and every hour of volunteer time means the food will get to those in need that much faster,” said Pugh. 🇺🇸

Throughout Utah, Soldiers and Airmen volunteer their time and resources to help Utah Boy Scouts during the 22nd consecutive year of the Scouting for Food drive. These Guard members worked long hours loading, unloading and moving large amounts of food alongside Boy Scouts and other volunteers to help feed Utah’s hungry.



Son of Fallen Soldier Awarded Father's Silver Star

By LTC Hank McIntire

WEST HAVEN, Utah — In a ceremony held April 29 at Kanesville Elementary, six-year-old Jase Spargur received the Silver Star medal earned by his father, Army 1LT Jonathan P. Brostrom, who was killed in Afghanistan last year.

Brostrom, an active-duty Soldier assigned to the 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, based in Vicenza, Italy, died in a firefight July 13, 2008, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces. For his heroic actions in attempting to save his fellow Soldiers, Brostrom was awarded the Silver Star posthumously.

Because Brostrom's parents reside in Hawaii and his son lives in Utah, the Army gave permission to hold a second ceremony here to present Jase with his own Silver Star in memory of his father.

The Utah National Guard's involvement in the ceremony was due not only to its proximity to Jase and his mother, Lindsey Spargur, who reside in West Haven, but also because Utah Guard officers were responsible for notifying Jase and his mother of Brostrom's death, as well as assisting the two with funeral arrangements, survivor benefits and other needs.

Ironically, members of the Utah National Guard's 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, deployed to Afghanistan at the time, were also among those of the quick-reaction force who responded in the aftermath of the incident in which Brostrom died.

Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard MG Brian Tarbet presented the award to Jase in front of hundreds of his fellow students.

In his remarks Tarbet called Brostrom "a hero," extolling the sacrifice he made for his country, as well as the decades of military service given by Brostrom's father, a retired Army colonel, and other family members.

"There are other heroes here with us today," said Tarbet. "Jase is one of them."



"It is with great pride for me today to say thank you, Jase, from the citizens of the United States," Tarbet continued. "This is a remarkable family. They have given much to this country, and last July they gave even more."

Jase's schoolmates listened respectfully and applauded boisterously after he accepted the medal from Tarbet.

"It was really cool," said Jacoba, a Kanesville sixth-grader, after the ceremony. "My grandpa served in Korea. It's important [that Soldiers] help make sure we're safe."

Jase's mother Lindsey was appreciative of the event to honor Brostrom and his son.

"It's nice to see the community recognize the sacrifices that families go through and the sacrifice Soldiers make," she said. "It's nice to be remembered and let it live on through the families."

Kanesville principal Mel Hawkes is hopeful that the ceremony has an impact on his students.

"We do the Pledge every day to try to teach kids citizenship skills," he explained. "This is certainly an opportunity they won't often have with the military here to honor a Soldier."

"We know Jase and have seen him go through this," he said. "This Soldier didn't come home, so this is a different perspective [for] the kids. It's good for us to understand that these Soldiers are dying for our freedoms."

Jase said he will hang his father's Silver Star in his room so that he will always remember.

"I miss him very much," said Jase. "My dad was a brave Soldier. He saved our country." 



Photo by Leah Hogsten / Salt Lake Tribune

Major Gen Brian Tarbet, left, presents Jase Spargur, 6, with a Silver Star that his late father, Army 1LT Jonathan P. Brostrom, was awarded for his heroic attempt to save his fellow Soldiers. Brostrom, of West Haven, was killed in a firefight in Afghanistan on July 13. Jase's mother, Lindsey Spargur, is on the right.

START / FINISH

SAPPER JOE TRAIL RACE

Sapper Joe 30K and 50K Trail Race



By CPT Wencke Tate

RIVERTON, Utah — **T**he Inaugural Sapper Joe 30K and 50K Trail Race was held at Camp Williams May 23.

The race kicked off to the loud boom of artillery at 6:05 a.m. and 124 trail runners started on their respective trails from Building 6150 on the main post and then through the wilderness of Camp Williams. The 115th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, hosted the race, which was sponsored by Wasatch Running Center.

Lieutenant Colonel Milada Copland, deputy commander of the 115th MEB, brought the concept of a race to the Wasatch Running Center last August after one of her co-workers mentioned during a training run that it would be neat if they could host an event at Camp Williams.

“This exposes more of the population to the Guard in an environment where it’s not just a recruiting event for high school kids,” said Copland. “Most of these people who run this race are older, and that also means they have more influence in the community. It’s also an opportunity for



Photos by CPT Wencke Tate and Phil Lowry

the Guard to show itself to a different slice of the population that normally doesn’t see it.”

Camp Williams commander, COL Robert Dunton, chose to run the race to see firsthand how the 115th MEB organized and facilitated the race and to show support for the Guard.

“This is the first time ever that an outside agency came in to sponsor an event that was open to the public at Camp Williams,” said Dunton. “It was hugely successful.”

Dunton added that even some of the less “hard-core” runners stopped to take pictures of the beautiful scenery at Cedar Point and at other spots that Camp Williams had to offer.

“It was very unique and very cool for those who experienced it,” he said.

“I love this race!” exclaimed Cindy Howard, of Salt Lake City, while

ABOVE: Racers prepare for the 6:05 a.m. start of the Sapper Joe Trail Race at Camp Williams. LEFT: Camp Williams commander, COL Robert Dunton, competes in the 30K Trail Race May 23.



stopped at an aid station about six miles into the race. “I’m having so much fun. I can’t wait to do it again next year.”

For those who participate in trail runs, it can be an accomplishment they won’t soon forget.

Fifty-year-old SSG Jim Geiermann, who works at Camp Williams in the Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit, and who placed 35th in the men’s category of the 30K with a time of 4:47:36, wanted to show his kids he could do it.

“I did this to prove to myself and kids that even an old man, if they exercise enough, can get through 20 miles running in the mountains,” said Geiermann. “I don’t feel old.”

Staff Sergeant Robert Derosche, Medical Detachment, the sole Utah Guardsman running the 50K race, was emotional after crossing the finish line.

“I was trying to get in under six [hours], but when I bonked I was thinking, ‘I’m going to have to walk the rest of the way,’” said Derosche. “This is probably the toughest thing I’ve done.”

When asked what kept him going, Derosche replied, “Knowing that I can’t quit... living the Army values and to never give up.”

Derosche finished 39th in the men’s category in the 50K with a respectable 7:11:32 time for a first-time trail runner.

Most Guardsmen who did participate in the race, ran to support the Guard.

“This is the second trail race I’ve ever run,” said Utah National Guard joint chief of staff COL Larry Schmidt. “The first one was terrible and I swore I would never run another trail race again, but I was already signed up for this.”

“I couldn’t not support the 115th MEB and the Guard, so here I am,” continued Schmidt. “I’m not saying I’ll sign up again next year,” he added with a chuckle.

Captain DeAnne Trauba did the race for the same reason.

“I ran this to support the Guard,” she said. “I ran the Guard trials three weeks ago, the marathon back in Lincoln, Nebraska, and so that was my real race of the year that I

trained real hard for, so this was just to support the Guard, have fun and be out here for the MEB.”

Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Hanson, a traditional M-Day Soldier with Training Site Command, employed full time with the Utah Veterans Nursing Home, ran with his 13-year-old son Jared.

“He was really strong the first five miles, struggled the next ten and we worked together pushing each other to get it done. We made great time” said Hanson proudly of his son.

They finished together in 3:56:58 in 14th and 15th place for the men.

“It hurt,” said Jared. “I thought I’d be sleeping in today, but my dad suggested this race since I had been running track in school.

“It was tough terrain, but it was fun,” he added, having set a school record in the mile at Timberline Middle School.

For a lot of people the race offered something new and exciting.

“I did this because this was a chance to run here where you wouldn’t normally get to, and I thought it would be fun,” said Karl Jarvis of Provo, and winner of the 50K. “I was kind of surprised at the scenery. Coming around a bend I could see Cedar Fort, the Salt Lake Valley and Kennecott.”

“People need to see that the military is going to be open to doing things a little bit differently,” he added. “I’ve lived here my whole life and never seen this.”

“I think this was great and we need to get more participation from the Guard and invite more of the public,” said Dunton. “Camp Williams is kind of an anomaly; you drive past it, and now with our encroachment it’s really becoming more of a community-awareness [issue]. They see it and it’s good to get people out [to see that] there is a real benefit to our partnership with our leaders and citizens.”

“The whole time I ran I was thinking this was pretty fun,” said Schmidt after taking time to recuperate after the race. “I’ll get the TAG out here next year.”

For complete race results and information on next year’s event, visit the following Web site:

www.wasatchrunningcenter.com/sapperjoe.htm 

PHOTOS OPPOSITE PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

CPT DeAnne Trauba, wearing race number 358, gives a thumbs up as she runs with ease at the beginning of the trail race. COL Larry Schmidt, bib 336, keeps a good pace during the flat portion of the race. Looking through his binoculars, WOC Mike Brusik, 115th MEB, looks for runners along the ridgeline of the course. LTC Steve Stevens grabs some watermelon at aid station 2 at Grimmert Cutoff, 10.45 miles into the 30K course. Runners pass each other going to and departing from the first aid station where the 30K and the 50K courses separate. This is the only place on the course where the 30K doubles back to continue on the route. LTC Milada Copeland, 115th MEB, and Darrell Phippen, race

director, Wasatch Running Center, present the Sapper Joe Helmet award to Karl Jarvis of Provo (4:41:11) and Sarah Evans of Alta (5:32:02), first-place finishers in the 50K. CPT Ryan Blackhurst and Nolan Blackhurst, both of Grantsville, Utah, proudly display their inaugural Sapper Joe Trail Race finishers coin at the finish line. The father-son duo finished the 30K in 4:38:18. Jeff Roundy and his 11-year-old son Nathan, both of North Salt Lake, running at the 5-mile mark on the course. They both finished the 30K in 5:39:14. Racers take advantage of the downhill along the trail (two photos) CPT Aaron Haruch, 115th MEB, checks in runners at aid station 2 at Grimmert Cutoff.

Story and photo by 151st ARW/Family Readiness

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah Air National Guard (ANG) base recently hosted a group of teens from Operation Military Kids (OMK) for a meeting March 7 to create a new communication team called “Speak Out for Military Kids” (SOMK).

Created in 2005, OMK is the U.S. Army’s collaborative effort with local communities to help support children and youth who are impacted by military-member deployments. In Utah, OMK offers children and youth of all the military branches many opportunities for support and recreation. SOMK is the public information component of OMK. It is a youth-led, adult-sponsored program created to help educate communities about deployment issues.

During the meeting, eight teens from both the Utah’s Army and ANG met together to learn more about their roles as the first SOMK team in the State. Debbie Ramsay, the SOMK adult leader, and Heather Watts, a 4-H leader and volunteer, served



Master Sgt Sandee Eisert, Katie Scoresby, Debbie Ramsay, Kyler Brunsen and Jeff Reading watch as Nevin Dewitt drops “Humpty Dumpty” to a target below. During this team-building exercise eight teens learned more about their roles as the first “Speak Out for Military Kids” team in Utah.

Guard Youth Learn to “Speak Out”

as staff for the training. Each teen who participated in the program has experienced having a deployed parent and knows firsthand how kids struggle when a parent is away serving their country.

“I was the oldest boy in my family so I felt like I had to be the dad [when my father deployed].” said Kyler Brunsen, whose father serves in the Utah Army National Guard.

During the meeting the youth spent time getting to know each other and toured the Air Base. They also received a briefing on how a real-world deployment cycle works in order to have a better understanding of what their parents go through when they deploy.

After the briefing, Col Sam Ramsey, 151st Air Refueling Wing vice commander, kicked off a mock deployment called Operation Humpty Dumpty and gave the teens a set of orders. Jill Lukes from the Wing’s Family Readiness Flight briefed the youth on the mobility-line process. After that, they received a mini Physical Training test and sampled a Meal Ready to Eat. The group

was then split into teams to complete a tasking. Each team was required to construct a container for Humpty Dumpty (a raw egg) to be dropped from the second floor of the Wing headquarters building onto a target below.

“Operation Humpty Dumpty was lots of fun, but hitting the target was harder than it looked,” said Debbie Ramsay. “Some containers failed to keep Humpty Dumpty together, but Nevin and Zoe DeWitt, Army National Guard youth, successfully completed the mission and won the competition.”

After a day of experiencing the deployment process firsthand and playing some fun games, the teens are now better prepared to go out into the community to share their message of being a child of a deployed military member.

“You have the opportunity to touch many lives,” said Ramsay. “Your experience and willingness to share with the community will help make deployments easier for other military families.”

The next project for the SOMK is making a video about the deployment cycle. They plan to use the video as part of their presentation as they go out and speak in the community. 🇺🇸

Fort Douglas Military Museum Opens *Tribune* Photographer's Iraq Photo Exhibit

UTAHNS IN IRAQ FACES FROM THE FRONT

Story and photo by LTC Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — Fort Douglas Military Museum held a ceremonial opening April 18 for a special exhibit, “Utahns in Iraq: Faces from the Front,” featuring photographs by *Salt Lake Tribune* photographer Rick Egan.

Egan took the photos in 2005 during a two-month assignment in Iraq as he and the *Tribune*'s Matthew LaPlante reported on various Utah-based Guard and Reserve units.

Keynote speakers at the ceremony were Egan and CSM Bruce Summers, of Richfield, senior enlisted man in the Utah Army National Guard and a former member of Cedar City-based Second Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, the unit featured in many of Egan's photographs.

“I've seen these pictures on my computer hundreds of times, but it's just incredible to see them larger than life,” reflected Egan on seeing the exhibit for the first time. “It's very powerful.”

“In the newspaper business, we shoot something and it's done,” he continued. “After it runs in the paper we don't hear about it again, but this was such an incredible experience that I want to talk about it, and I think Soldiers need to talk about it. I hope this exhibit will give them a chance to talk about what they did.”

The photographs in the exhibit depict U.S. Military life in Iraq in a variety of settings to include the combat mission, Soldiers' activities during off-duty time, humanitarian work and local citizens and landscapes.

“Museums are more than just about things that happened a long time ago; it's also about contemporary issues of Soldiers and their lives today,” explained Ephriam Dickson, curator for the Museum, about how the idea for the exhibit came about.

Dickson recalled a conversation several months ago with Utah National Guard leaders, who suggested that Dickson contact Egan and LaPlante about their experience in Iraq to see if they were interested in having their photos and text placed on display at the Museum.

“Rick and Matthew and I had lunch one day, and they seemed very excited about the idea, and that blossomed into this exhibit,” said Dickson.

LaPlante, who worked side by side with Egan in Iraq, was well familiar with his colleague's images, which added the visual spice to his reporting.

“I've seen all of these photos a hundred times,” said LaPlante. “Seeing them like this makes my heart beat and my throat tighten. These photos are blown up to the size they are in

my memory—huge and all-encompassing.”

He described his favorite photo in the exhibit, a black-and-white image of a young Iraqi girl framed next to a U.S. Soldier explaining to an interpreter at her side how he inadvertently bumped her with the butt of his rifle in the melee of Iraqi children converging on U.S. Military members handing out toys and candy during a “hearts-and-minds” operation.

“The anger in the Iraqi man's face, the Soldier explaining and apologizing through the interpreter after what happened,” LaPlante recalled, “the look on her face was almost angelic. It's really a powerful image.”

Summers, in his remarks, described the lack of enthusiasm on his and other Soldiers' part when they received word that Egan and LaPlante would be reporting on their unit's mission as on-the-ground observers in Ramadi, Iraq.

“We were not excited about the prospect of having reporters embedded with the unit,” said Summers. “We didn't want our families to know where we were going and what was happening to us. But now in retrospect, it's great to look at these and see what Soldiers went through. The photos do bring back a lot of memories—good and bad.”

“As you walk through this gallery and look at the faces in these photos,” Summers reminded his audience, “remember that these are the faces of your fellow citizens who have left their families, their jobs and schools to defend this great State and Country.”

“People don't really think about what Soldiers do,” said Egan. “They think about them heading out in a humvee to look for the enemy, but there's so much more than that.”

“This is a wider view,” he concluded. “I'll never look at a Soldier again without feeling grateful.”

Egan's photos will be on display at the Museum through December 2009. 🇺🇸



A museum patron views one of Salt Lake Tribune photographer Rick Egan's Iraqi photographs on display for a special exhibit that runs through December 2009 at Fort Douglas Military Museum.

Utah Air Guardsman Rides Along with AirMed

By Maj Krista DeAngelis

SALT LAKE CITY—The sun peeks over the horizon as SSgt Alan Reynolds prepares for his briefing inside the University of Utah hospital. It may be an early morning, but for the AirMed medics and aircrew that he is sitting with, it's just another day on the job.

Reynolds, a member of the 151st Medical Group, Utah Air National Guard, is about to have the unique opportunity to ride along on an AirMed “air ambulance” mission to observe how specialized medical personnel perform critical-care patient transports. On any given day, members of AirMed may be taken to the top of a ski resort's mountain peak or to the scene of a severe Utah traffic accident. Not knowing if their next patient will live or die, this special medical team has to prepare for any emergency.

As Reynolds settles into the briefing room, the crew goes over flight procedures, safety issues and other flight information in preparation for the day's mission.

“The purpose of the training is to give me some hands-on experience in a real aeromedical evacuation situation,” he explains. “It's really exciting, with plenty of adrenaline.”

After the crew pre-flights the Bell 430 AirMed helicopter and loads the equipment, the chopper takes the team to the Utah cities of Vernal and Tooele on two touch-and-go patient pick-ups. During the trips, Reynolds was not only allowed to ride along, but was able to participate in parts of the mission.

“During the mission I learned how to load patients onto the helicopter and observed how the helicopter is set up,” he said. “I was really impressed with the professionalism of the crew.”

The University of Utah AirMed ride-along program was established as an orientation for people like Reynolds to observe what happens when aircrews pick up and transport critical patients. The program focuses on third-year medical residents, firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics throughout the Salt Lake Valley. Several months ago, the 151st MG coordinated a special training opportunity with AirMed that allows their Air Guard medics to ride along and participate on some of these emergency flights.



Photos by TSgt Michael Evans

BELOW: An AirMed Bell 430 helicopter lands at the University of Utah hospital after picking up a patient in Tooele, Utah. ABOVE: Staff Sgt Alan Reynolds of the 151st Medical Group helps air paramedic Tom Robertson unload equipment from a AirMed helicopter into the Vernal hospital. Reynolds is one of 19 Utah Air Guard medics participating in a special ride-along program with the University of Utah AirMed unit.



“I believe it’s important for my medics to see these types of traumatic situations,” said Senior MSgt Merlin Tomshack, 151st MG health systems specialist. “Particularly because of homeland defense, and if something was to ever happen here...my medics would be out providing support on some level and will be engaged with AirMed. It’s a great opportunity for us to get to know them and close the gap between civilian homeland defense and the military.”

Utah’s AirMed unit is one of the oldest in the country, and is based at University of Utah hospital. In 30-plus years of existence, AirMed has grown into a well-known air medical transport service that currently utilizes a combination of four rotor- and two fixed-wing aircraft from six locations throughout Utah to transport approximately 2,500 patients per year. The AirMed and Air Guard program grew out of discussions with Tomshack and Doug Morgan, the AirMed coordinator.

“I was approached by Merlin at an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) conference a while back regarding

training for his medics,” said Morgan. “We were happy to accommodate the Air Guard medics. It’s always beneficial for us to work with other agencies, and it makes us better providers in the long run.”

Reynolds echoed that sentiment explaining, “I think joint training is important. It gives us a chance to see how other agencies operate and improves our own knowledge and skills.”

And at the end of the day, Reynolds was not only able to improve his skills, but was able to witness success as both transport patients were delivered safely to the University of Utah hospital to receive the medical attention they required.

“It was a great experience for me to ride along with AirMed,” he said. “I really appreciate their willingness to let me be a part of their team for a day.”

The Air Guard and AirMed ride-along program is currently ongoing. Approximately 19 medics from the 151st MG will be given the opportunity to observe and participate in this specialized medical mission. 🇺🇸



640th RTI Trains Soldiers at Camp Williams TOCEX

Story and photos by PFC Ashley Baum

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **D**iscussing locations of recent insurgent activity in Baghdad, Iraq, 1158th Space Support Company SPC Dustin Mueller predicts where and when the next terrorist attack will occur in the region. Mueller points to the situation map riddled with icons and operational graphics about recent events as he briefs leaders in the Tactical Operations Center about possible terrorist attacks as the country's upcoming election approaches.

After the brief, 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute instructor SSG Paul Mecham critiques Mueller's performance and how he and his team can improve on future briefings as 35F Military Intelligence Analysts. The purpose of this scenario was to enhance the skills Mueller and his teammates learned in order to effectively carry out and manage TOC situations while downrange.

Soldiers from around the country train at Camp Williams, Utah, to become Military Occupational Specialty-qualified as 35Fs. Instructors from the 640th RTI train students to be proficient in their job skill during a six-week course. The course ends with a week-long Tactical Operations Center Exercise, or TOCEX, when students manage a TOC in a realistic downrange scenario.

Students, divided into four-or five-member teams, collectively gather information from human, signal, and imagery intelligence to predict insurgent activity, as well as locate U.S. troop maneuvers. 640th RTI instructor SSG Darren Harden said all the intelligence information students collected throughout the TOCEX are fused into an intelligence summary, which, according to Harden, is the most important report students publish.

The TOCEX is divided into two separate phases. During Phase 1 students analyze incoming message traffic about high-intensity conflicts occurring on the battlefield and plot the events on a situation map. This helps students understand the enemy's current tactical location and allows them to predict where and when the enemy will move next.

Phase 2 takes all the information collected in Phase 1 and applies it to a postwar scenario.

"Stability and sustainment operations [are] similar to what's going on in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Harden.

At the end of the phase, students put together an intelligence summary consisting of information gathered



SPC Dustin Mueller, 1158th Space Support Company, points to the situation map during his briefing. SPC Dustin Mueller gives a brief on current insurgent activity during the second phase of the TOCEX.

throughout the exercise and present it to instructors for final evaluation.

SGT Reed Webber, 258th Support Detachment (Rear Area Operations Center), 35F student, said the beginning of each TOCEX shift consists of daily briefings of what has happened during the previous shift.

"We are simulating a 24-hour [operation]," said Webber. "You get your message traffic, you start plotting it [on the situation map] and you start moving the enemy around to figure out what they are going to be doing [and their] courses of action."

640th RTI instructors oversee students' progress throughout the TOCEX. However, since the training exercise is the final section of students' six-week MOS training course before graduation, instructors have minimal involvement in

the students' work and final products.

Before the TOCEX, students are given a country brief, intelligence summaries and operation orders which all lead up to the TOCEX scenario. Once the TOCEX begins, Harden said the students hit the ground running and "it's their show."

"We've well prepared them from day one by giving them all these skills," said Harden. "We've talked about the things to put into your TOC, the SITMAP and all the PIR (Priority Intelligence Requirements) and what to do with them."

Instructors try to create a realistic training exercise to ensure students' success not only in the classroom but also on the battlefield. The life-like experience helps students understand how important their MOS is in high-intensity areas downrange.

"The exercise is not that stressful," said Webber. "But knowing what the job entails when you go downrange that if you make the wrong decision you could be killing hundreds of American Soldiers. That puts in the new element of risk

and stress."

According to 640th Regiment RTI instructor SSG Mark Murray, students' biggest struggle was just getting started on the training exercise. He said each person has different strengths and weaknesses, which can create a stressful atmosphere.

"Usually you have your stronger members in the TOC who help bring along the less stronger members," said Murray. "They all come together as a team and work well."

After graduating, students will return to their home units where they will further develop the skills learned from the TOCEX training in this MOS.

"I hope they get a taste of what it's like downrange," said Harden. "Downrange there will be a lot of responsibility on their shoulders, so this gives them a feel of what they need to do, how they need to be organized, the types of reports they need to put out and what is expected of them." 

Camp Williams Receives Four New Fire Trucks



By LTC Hank McIntire

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard officially took delivery of four new fire trucks for Camp Williams on April 29, at Draper Headquarters.

Major Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, accepted the new vehicles. Camp Williams firefighting personnel were also present to answer questions.

The four Type 6 brush trucks, purchased from Larsen Apparatus in Newton, Utah, are Ford F550 Supercab 4x4s. The vehicles come equipped with mounted utility boxes, a 300-gallon water tank, Hale foam system, Mercedes textile pump, 300 feet of 1.5-inch hose, 300 feet of 1-inch hose, fire tools and appliances to suppress wildland fires.

Each truck will be staffed with two firefighters and an engine boss, trained and selected from among the 60 Utah

National Guard Soldiers who are currently red-card certified to fight wildland fires.

"This new addition will provide our firefighters with greater capability, greater range and more modern equipment," said COL Robert Dunton, commander of Camp Williams. "The new trucks will replace brush trucks that have been in use since the 1970s. We now meet the same basic standard of equipment for any fire department that fights wildland fires."

"We're no longer using duct tape and baling wire to keep a truck current," he added. "This is our first step forward for getting Camp Williams a better capability to fight a fire." 



Camp Williams fire-management officer, Mr. Lance Wollebaek (right), explains to SSG William Bochat and SGT Daniel Mitchell the proper spraying technique of the new fire-truck hose.

The British Are Coming! The British Are Coming! The British Came!

By SGT Scotten Whaley

OREM, Utah — **O**n the shoulder boards of the traditional red tunic uniforms of the Grenadier Guards are the words: “HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.” The translation: Evil be to him who evil thinks.

Members of 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards Football Club must have thought the Utah National Guard Soccer Team had evil intentions as the two teams took to the soccer field in two matches in early May.

In the two games it was the visiting Britons who followed the order given at the Battle of Bunker Hill to not shoot until they saw the “whites of their eyes.” The Utah Guardsmen’s eyes must have been white the entire game, as the visitors shot and shot and shot. Between the two games they outscored their Utah hosts, 13-1.

Perhaps the matches would have been closer had the Grenadier Guards played in the familiar bearskin hat and red tunic they wear while on duty protecting the Queen of England at Buckingham Palace.

Despite the 28-hour travel time from England to Utah and the 4,000-foot change in elevation, the Grenadiers were simply glad to have the opportunity to play the game and see a new part of the world. It was also a chance to play some games prior to their upcoming deployment.

The Grenadiers are scheduled for a six-month tour in Afghanistan and will begin their spin-up training when they return to England. Because of this, it was unlikely their team would have been able to participate in their normal season and their manager, Warrant Officer Sean Bates, looked for an opportunity to get his boys some training.

The trip was long in the making. Bates and MSG Monty Smith, of the Utah National Guard, served together in Kuwait. They became good friends and maintained that friendship after both Soldiers returned home. When Smith learned the Grenadiers are deploying to Afghanistan in October and their soccer team would not be able to participate in its full season, the idea was hatched.

“Their soccer team wouldn’t get a full schedule because of their preparations for Afghanistan, and this was a chance to help them out,” said Smith.

Working closely with Bates, the two sides set up the eight-day tour of Utah.

“We work closely with the Americans overseas but don’t usually get to see how they train,” said Grenadier Captain Piers Ashfield. “This was a good chance to get the bearskin and tunic into some of the schools. That probably doesn’t happen that often here. But thanks to that good British persistence, we were able to make it happen.”

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Home for the Grenadiers is Wellington Barracks, where the view includes Buckingham Palace, James Park, Victoria Memorial and The Mall in London. While in Utah, the British Soldiers were housed at Camp Williams.

“When I handed them the key to their room, they asked how many per room,” said Smith. “They couldn’t believe it when I said they didn’t have to share. One of them told me the rooms were the nicest they’ve stayed in.”

As for the actual competition on the field, “The Yanks played hard,” said Ashfied. “We definitely felt like we’ve played a game. They gave a great effort.”

“We were just glad to keep it as close as we did,” said the Utah Guard’s SFC Marco Briones. “For only having a handful of practices, we thought we played well and fought hard. Hopefully we can play them again in the future. Or maybe even make our own trip to England for a rematch.” 🇺🇸



Britain’s Grenadier Guards and Utah National Guard senior leadership at Draper headquarters. Chasetown Legends vs. The Guards.



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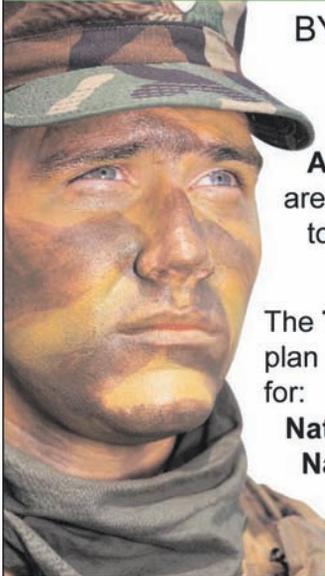
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McGuire, Leon F III

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Bentley, Adam Douglas
May, Joshua J
Stahl, Kathleen M

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Nelson, Brandon Steven
Snider, Richard D

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Schiele, Steven J

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

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Griego, William Joseph
Ormond, Wayne S
Peck, Korwyn D
Poulson, Sterling S
Shupe, Dale Curtis

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Atherley, Tony S
Bird, Gregory T
Bird, Nathan R
Chamberlain, Alexandria
Dubinski, Cynthia D
Dunn, David B
Fish, Gaylen H
Fleury, Phillip William
Goble, John R
Healey, Clark D

Hooper, Matthew L
Hunt, Bertley J
Kohr, Jamie D
Lobaido, Ruth Ann
Longshaw, Matthew C
Perretta, Andrea Nmn
Romero, Rory D
Sobczak, Thomas Jr
Trafelet, William C
White, Micah P
Whitlock, Richard C
Williams, Andre E

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Hunt, Kenneth L
Johnson, Jeremy J
Linder, Joshua T
Martinez, Ray Clifford II
McCumber, Corey M
Nielsen, Erin B
Owenby, Caleb C

Paetsch, Will M
Parry, Kenneth C
Richards, Joseph J
Tucker, Michele L
Waddell, Scott W

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Bernasek, Joel B
Bolander, Marcy Ashley
Bollsweiler, Nicholas R
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Cowan, Daniel Ray
Davies, Shawn Ms
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Farnsworth, Don Seth
Hermansen, Brandon S
Hubbard, Ted Oral
Kirkland, Jonathan B
Lee, Christopher B
Lyman, Donald Ray

Mclaughlin, David C
Misa, Pona I
Putnam, Lauren C
Romney, Vincent C
Wardell, Justin Merl
Wilkins, Marlicia Denise

SENIOR AIRMAN

Anders, Brian J
Andreason, Daniel K
Bell, Zachary J
Caldwell, Anthony David
Gudmundson, Samuel T
Hood, Nisha I
Humpherys, Jessica D
Johnson, Gregory S
Larson, Kenneth L
McCombs, Jason M
Nielsen, William D
Oconnell, Allyson J
Phair, Jaime N
Stanley, Tyler James
Synal, Jean F

New Soldier Dining Facility Opens at Camp Williams

By LTC Hank McIntire

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a newly renovated and expanded Soldier dining facility Feb. 18, at Building 5030, Camp Williams. At a cost of nearly \$1.4 million, the remodeled building has the capacity to feed 400 individuals at one time.

For several years civilian contractors have provided meals to troops training at Camp Williams. However, with the new facility, units will return to a more standard organization where full-time military cooks are assigned to prepare food for Soldiers, thus allowing them to utilize their skills on a regular basis and, at the same time, save money for the taxpayer.

“This new dining facility will allow us to return to the traditional arrangement where Soldiers feed Soldiers,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers, State Sergeant Major of the Utah National Guard. “And it will better prepare us to support the authorities in time of civil emergency if we are called upon to feed large numbers of people.” 

TOP DOWN: Major Gen. Brian Tarbet and CSM Bruce Summers cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the newly renovated dining facility at Camp Williams. BELOW: After the ribbon-cutting ceremony Soldiers enjoyed the first meal served at the new facility.



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